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SOCIAL ORIGINS OF CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA, 1838-1861

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by

Helen Evans Shepherd

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A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts, in the Department of History, in the Graduate College of the State University of Iowa

June, 1947

SOCIAL ORIGINS OF CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA, 1840-1861

by

Helen Evans Brayboy

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1. Cedar Rapids, Ia.--Hist. I. Title.

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FOREWORD

The purpose of this thesis is to describe how the people of Cedar Rapids lived from the time of the city's founding in 1838 to the outbreak of the Civil War, how they worked together to found schools, churches and libraries, their group recreation and observance of holidays, how they utilized the opportunities for culture at their command, and how they met the problems of communication and transportation common to all pioneer communities. I have used the word "social" throughout as signifying group or community activities. This work has been limited to the period preceeding the Civil War both because of the large amount of material involved, and because patterns of living changed, to a large extent, during the conflict.

I should like to express my appreciation for his help and personal interest to Professor Winfred T. Root, Head of the History Department. A formal acknowledgement cannot express my debt to my husband, C. Vance Shepherd, without whose help and encouragement this thesis could never have been written.

M. E. S.

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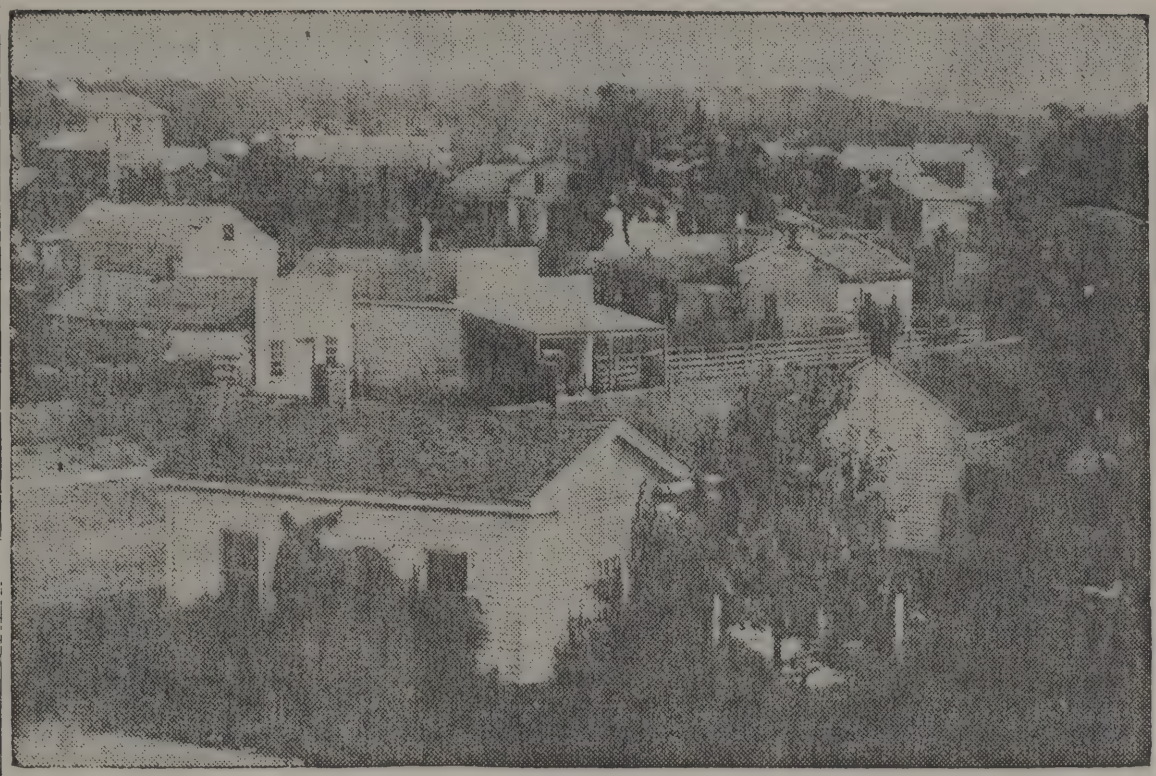
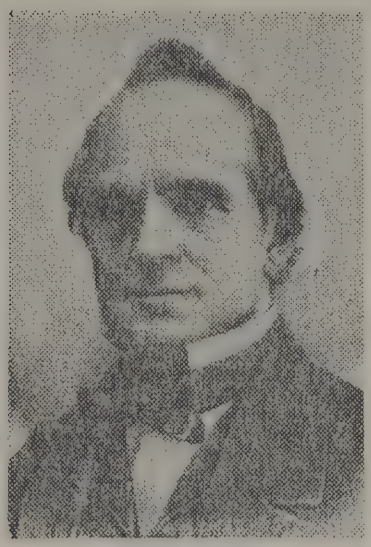


CEDAR RAPIDS IN 1858—First avenue and Second street SE looked like this in 1858. Pioneers called it Iowa avenue and Washington street. Reproduced from a daguerrotype owned by the late Isaac B. Smith, the picture shows in the foreground the vine covered cottage of Harvey G. Higley on what is now the site of the American Trust building. It faced present Second street SE. Next door, on the modern site of the J. C. Penney company building, is the early home of Oliver Emery.

Across the street, in the building with the wide roof projecting over the entrance, was the office shared by Dr. E. L. Mansfield and Dr. J. H. Smith. In the corner house with the rail fence around it (now the Armstrong corner) Isaac B. Smith, son of Dr. Smith, was born. It was here, too, that Miss Mary Graves, a member of the Greene family, is recalled as having had a private school.

To the left upper center, marked by tall locust trees and a porch is the early home of Dr. and Mrs. John F. Ely, parents of J. S. Ely. Back and slightly to the left is the cupola of the residence of George Dewey, grandfather of Miss Caroline Soutter. (The Ely home was on the site now occupied by Martin's store.)

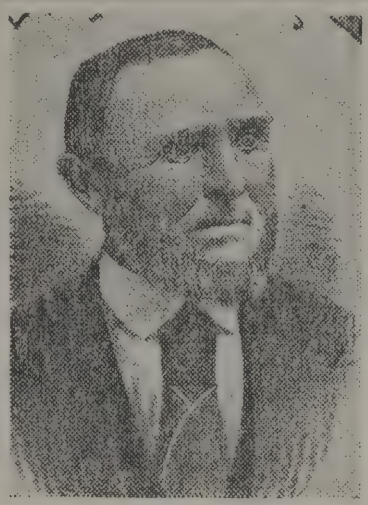
Free school is the pretentious two-story building at the extreme upper left on what later was the Washington high school site. The square steeple to the right and above the Ely home was on the Second Presbyterian church, predecessor of Westminster church. The site is on Third street across from the Montrose hotel.



JUDGE GREENE.

JUDGE GREENE'S MOUND FARM HOME.

Physician of 1847

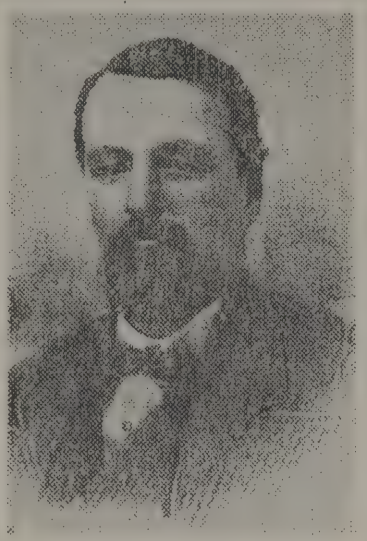


DR. LEWIS MANSFIELD.

One of the most beloved citizens of Cedar Rapids during the early days was Dr. Eber Lewis Mansfield, who came here to practice in 1847. A native of Canaan, Ohio, he was born Jan. 26, 1821. His father served three years in the Revolutionary war.

Dr. Mansfield was one of the founders of Coe college and for many years was a trustee when it was called Coe Collegiate institute. In 1849 he was in partnership with Dr. S. D. Carpenter but this alliance was dissolved the following year when Dr. Mansfield went to California in search of gold. He returned in 1851 and formed a partnership with Dr. Milligan in 1854. He also had partnerships later with Dr. Smith and with Dr. George P. Carpenter.

Dr. Mansfield made extensive investments in real estate and at one time owned between 15,000 and 20,000 acres of land. He built the Mansfield block and helped organize the City National bank, continuing as a stockholder until 1882. He died suddenly on May 26, 1887, while driving alone on a country road north of town.



STEPHEN L. DOWS.

The life history of Stephen L. Dows is no less interesting than the history of the development of the Midwest.

Born in New York City Oct. 9, 1832, he came to Cedar Rapids April 12, 1855, and engaged in the sawmill and lumber business. In 1860 he was drawn to Colorado by the discovery of gold at Pike's Peak, but after a year of prospecting, he returned to Cedar Rapids.

In August, 1862, he enlisted as a member of Company I, 20th Iowa Infantry and was made first lieutenant. After returning from the war he began railroad building, becoming one of the most extensive and prosperous contractors in the west. The town of Dows, in Wright county, was named in his honor.

For many years Mr. Dows was a trustee of Coe and Cornell colleges. In 1874 he built the Dows block, which was one of the finest office buildings in the west. He served in the sixteenth and seventeenth general assemblies, to which he first was elected in 1875.

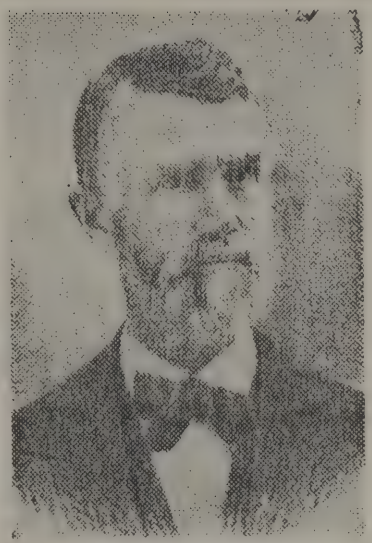
Railroad Builder

WILLIAM W. WALKER.

In the prairie regions of the vast Middle West, the trail for which thousands of home-seekers waited was blazed by the railroad builder. Among the pioneer builders of the early 50's was William Williams Walker of Cedar Rapids.

During the eventful years from 1856 to 1872 he surveyed and built hundreds of miles of road in Iowa and adjacent states. Early identified with the Blair and Ames projects, he personally supervised every mile of that portion of the present North Western system included in the state of Iowa. He once remarked that he had "walked over every foot of land traversed by the North Western from the Mississippi to the Missouri, many times over."

Born in Middlefield, N. Y., Aug. 8, 1834, Mr. Walker had become chief engineer of the Cedar Rapids and Missouri River railroad at the age of 26. In 1873 he became chief engineer of the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Minnesota railroad and in 1879 he was made vice-president and general superintendent of the St. Louis, Hannibal and Keokuk railroad. He also became president of the First National bank, was president of the Cedar Rapids Water company and president of the Republican Printing company.



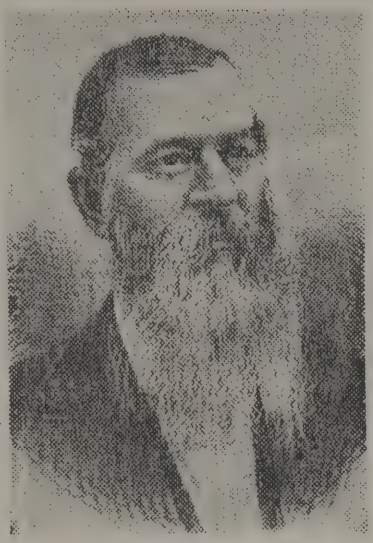
DR. JOHN F. ELY.

One of the most active citizens in the early history of Cedar Rapids was Dr. John F. Ely, who came here in October, 1848, when the town had but 300 inhabitants.

Born in Rochester, N. Y., June 25, 1821, he had qualified for college by the time he was 12 years old. He was graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York.

During the Civil war he was surgeon of the 24th Iowa Volunteer Infantry but was compelled to resign after a year because of ill health. He was one of the organizers of the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Minnesota railroad in 1868 and for some years was its vice-president and treasurer. He was one of the trustees named by Daniel Coe in 1853 to invest $1,500 in the purchase of land for the foundation of Coe college.

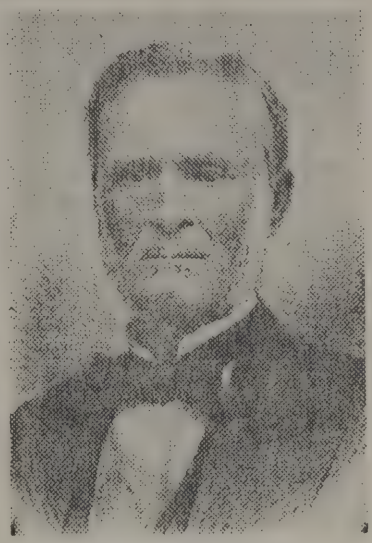
Dr. Ely was instrumental in the construction of the Ely block at Second avenue and Third street SE, now owned by the Martin Building company, which houses Martin's store.



H. G. HIGLEY.

Harvey G. Higley, who came to Cedar Rapids in 1842 from West Granby, Conn., was one of the early settlers who foresaw a great future for the then struggling village of less than 300 people. He and his brother, Henry Higley, began the operation of stage lines to Dubuque and Iowa City, when roads were not much more than wagon trails. They also did heavy freighting to various Indian posts.

Mr. Higley erected a brick building in 1867 on the site of the present American building, which was occupied for some time by Oscar Solomon as a men's clothing store. The brick building just west of the American building to the alley, now occupied by a tavern and several other establishments, also was built by Mr. Higley. He died in 1878.



SAMPSON C. BEVER.

Born in Columbiana county, Ohio, July 13, 1808, Sampson C. Bever arrived in Cedar Rapids April 2, 1852. He began farming, but later entered the merchandising field. He was identified with the construction of the Chicago, Iowa and Nebraska railroad and when the line was built to Cedar Rapids he established a private bank, which later was reorganized as the City National bank. Under his guidance as president, it soon attained a strong financial position in the monetary affairs of the community.

Mr. Bever was active in advancing the interests of Grace Episcopal church. He also was a liberal donor toward the erection of St. Luke's hospital. He died Aug. 22, 1892.

OK

Chapter I

LIFE IN CEDAR RAPIDS

The first permanent white settlers in the vicinity of Cedar Rapids were farmers, attracted by the fertile land of the Blackhawk Purchase. Not long afterward, came men who saw at the rapids of the Cedar River a source of water power for grinding the grain of the surrounding farming area and for future manufacturing establishments. There was also the possibility of using the river as a means of transportation. Transportation was the crying need of the West to bring in those necessities of life which the settler could not grow or make, and to ship out his surplus grain and livestock products. These were the reasons why a few scattered cabins were erected on the east and west banks of the Cedar.

Osgood Shepard, a man of unsavory character, built a cabin in 1838 at the present site of the Y. M. C. A. on some land which he held by "squatters rights."[1] He must be accorded the honor of having been the first settler. In 1841, when there were three log cabins, the town was laid out and platted.[2] The next year the first frame house, now preserved at Bever Park, was built by John Vardy, probably from lumber sawed by the sawmill erected in the same year.[3]

The spot chosen for the town was one of natural, unspoiled beauty, with the river then clearer, deeper and swifter than it is today. The pioneers spoke of the beauty of the whole Cedar Valley, as well as of its fertility. Mrs. Mary Ely described the site of Cedar Rapids as it appeared in 1842 from the hill south of Marion: "Below was spread out the bowl-shaped valley, with the Cedar flowing swiftly over the rapids and sparkling in the sunlight."[4]

The little community continued to grow slowly, not differing greatly from other hamlets in eastern Iowa. By 1849 when Dr. Seymour Carpenter arrived, he described it as consisting of "about forty inhabitants, with houses surrounded by plenty of sand without a sign of a street."[5]

By 1853, Cedar Rapids "was a small town of perhaps 500 or 600 people, a thriving place and strategically located in the center of a rapidly developing farming section of the state. The business section had already begun to move away from the vicinity of the mills and extended on both sides of Commercial Street [First Street] for two blocks and a short distance east on Iowa Avenue [First Avenue]. The Daniels store, a three-story brick building on the corner of Commercial Street and Iowa Avenue [Present location of the Order of Railway Conductors Building] was the most pretentious business structure."[6]

In 1857, an Ohio man published in the Independent Democrat, of Elyria, Ohio, his impressions of Cedar Rapids:

> We spent the next day very pleasantly in rambling through the streets of this thriving young city, which is built mostly of brick, and which is by far the finest town we visited in the state. Large business blocks have been erected on the principal streets, many of them quite recently, and everywhere was visible the evidence of thrift and enterprise. It is emphatically a manufacturing town, and the facilities it possesses in an inexhaustible water power, together with the agricultural country adjacent, which is fast becoming settled, cannot fail to make Cedar Rapids a point of great importance, and that at no distant day...
>
> The city has already over half a million of dollars invested in manufacturing establishments, which furnish employment to a large number of persons.

In December 1858, the editor of the Dubuque Weekly Times described the young and growing town:

> Cedar Rapids is six miles below Marion and lies directly on the Cedar River. It has a water power superior to that of Cedar Falls, because the stream here has much greater volume. It can all be appropriated to hydraulic purposes, and will be some day. Already there are three flouring mills in operation with an aggregate of nine run of stone, a clothing mill, and several machine shops. The "Cedar Rapids City" flouring mill and the "Farmers," are owned by H. O. Angle & Co., and the "Valley Mills" by J. Black. The clothing mill is owned by N. B. Brown & Co., who weave excellent woolen blankets, satinet and other fabrics. The extensive furniture factory of J. A. Dewey is just above the flouring mills. Farther up the river are the steam Variety Works of Greene & Graves, through which we were conducted by the Superintendent S. L. Dows....
>
> There are seven brick kilns in and around Cedar Rapids and 30,000,000 brick were manufactured in 1857. The finest brick blocks which we have seen

> in the interior of Iowa are in this city.... Nearly one hundred dwelling houses have also been erected since last spring. Three or four of the churches are built of brick and are neat and tasteful edifices. The Episcopal church, which stands on the high grounds in the eastern part of the city, in the suburbs of the grove, is very romantically situated. The grounds in its neighborhood are inviting sites for private residences, and some of the "merchant princes" are building there. A mile or two further out is the palatial residence of Judge Greene, surrounded with its orchards and its nursery with several thousands of fruit trees....
>
> The streets of Cedar Rapids, like the principal ones in Marion, are very wide and well laid out....[8]

The main part of town was between the railroad tracks and the river, with scattered houses of the suburbs up the First Avenue hill and near Grace Episcopal Church on A Avenue. In 1853, Dr. S. D. Carpenter's house at Eighth Street and Second Avenue was at the extreme edge of town.[9]

The condition of the streets was the subject of conversation and complaint, especially after the spring and fall rains. On the crossings pedestrians would sometimes "slump in" up to their knees.[10] At a few of the crossings some enterprising person hauled in enough sand to protect his shoes.[11] The editor observes, "The roads are horrible. The frost is all out of the ground and the bottomless holes are numerous. The north-eastern mail was seven hours behind time today."[12] "The flat on the west side of the river, on the Vinton road, is nearly impassible. We

noticed a day or two since a team of three yoke of oxen stalled in the mud and it became necessary to remove a part of the loading in order to get out. We saw another wagon abandoned in the mud."[13] Another resident remembers the sandy streets, the fleas and the sandburs of the sand hills east of the railroad.[14] In the fall of 1857, by a county ruling, pigs were forbidden to roam the streets. On the day announced a pound was established and the boys were paid ten cents apiece for capturing each loose animal. One boy earned $1.50.[15]

Sidewalks were laid of planks along the principal streets.[16] They were extended in the spring of 1857. At the same time another civic improvement was the construction of a "lock-up" for the sum of two hundred seventy-three dollars.[17]

The several retail stores of Cedar Rapids used the sidewalk in front of their establishments to display their wares. These included "ready made clothing, tubs, barrels, wheelbarrels, pitchforks and dry goods generally".[18]

The retail and professional establishments included a wide variety of merchandise and services. A. Clinton had an "Ice Cream Saloon where ladies and gentlemen can be furnished with this excellent article during the season",[19] while Bacon and McDonald advertised excellent lemonade with lemons squeezed as in a "vice".[20] In 1857 an "elegant soda

fountain" was established at the Cedar Rapids Drug Store.[21] Fancy and comic valentines were on sale in 1856 in spite of the hard times.[22] Mr. O. F. Pickerill opened a "Daguerrian Room".[23] His successor Mr. H. B. Douglas supplied "all styles of Ambrotypes and Melenotypes ... as natural as life."[24] Turley's shaving saloon furnished anything desired in "Tonsorial art."[25] The business men of the city were not lacking in enterprise. During the bad flood of 1858, the two firms of Losch and Wood and Bangs and Bixby ran a free boat for customers to reach their stores.[26] During the hard times of 1857 Angle and Co. issued "shinplasters" redeemable in currency in order to relieve the shortage of money.[27]

The stores offered considerable variety of clothing. In the summer of 1856 men could buy ready made suits, hats, caps and silk or wool underwear. Several years later suits could be ordered from one of several merchant tailors. Advertisements of shirtings and "shirt bosoms" suggest that men's shirts were made at home. Boots and shoes were sold for every member of the family. The choice of ready-made clothing for the ladies was somewhat more limited, but they could buy fancy colored kid finish silk gloves, hosiery, canton crape shawls, hooped and grass cloth skirts and bonnets. Most of the women's and children's clothing was made at home. There was a wide variety of fabrics. These

included broadcloths, doeskins, satinets, tweed jeans, corduroys, Italian cloths, "Marseilles and Silk Vestings," "Silk Coatings and Alapaccas," "silks in great variety," prints, ginghams, lawns, and several different kinds of muslins.[28] For the latest styles ladies were urged to send three dollars for Godey's Ladies Magazine.[29]

At first all clothing was made by hand, but before the Civil War there were at least a few sewing machines in Cedar Rapids. One pioneer remembered "that the first sewing machine in Cedar Rapids was a Grover & Baker, brought there some years before the war by Miss Abott in her trunk from Maine. The machine was in a square mahogany box to be set up on a table and the treadle to be attached. Its owner rented it out at a dollar a day, and it was always busy, being engaged for many days in advance."[30] By 1859, the famous Singer sewing machines could be ordered from Chicago. They were called "the wonderful improvement of the age."[31] L. Cornell & Company's sewing machine with a double lock, right, fast stitch sold at thirty-five and forty dollars in 1860 with "large discounts to the Trade, Agents and Clergy."[32] By 1861 three brands were advertised.[33]

Other modern household inventions were also on the market. The "Knuckle Washing Machine" which had knuckles of wood was sold by C. L. Drake.[34] This must have been a

great improvement over the washboard for mothers of large families.

For lighting, tallow candles were made and used as they had been for centuries. "Candle molds were part of the equipment in every well regulated family, as was also a brass candlestick and snuffers."[35] Stearine candles, "a nice article and the cheapest light that can be used" were sold in 1856.[36] By 1859 kerosene lamps were on the market. The editor comments, "We have tried it several evenings, and must say that for brilliance of light and cheapness, it is superior to anything we have ever before used. This oil is a Yankee invention, and has been brought to that perfection, that it emits no odor, and looks as clear as burning fluid."[37] One of the first lamps was a tall one "with a brass burner and a glass chimney."[38]

The housewife who shopped at the corner grocery store in 1856 could buy only those things which would stand the long haul overland from the Mississippi River. She could buy sugar, but it was very expensive. She found also coffee, pepper, spice, "teas of all kinds from 50 to 80 cents per pound, foreign and dried fruits, pickles, preserves, cheese and candies."[39] Dried fruits included blackberries, raspberries, cherries and peaches as well as the familiar dried apples.[40]

Flour at first was a luxury hard to obtain. "The nearest source of supply was the 'Cat Fish Mill' near Dubuque."[41] In 1841, John O. McLeod built a grist mill at McLeod Springs which ground corn into meal and later ground wheat for flour as well.[42] In 1844, Alexander Ely built a flouring mill on the river so that Cedar Rapids' residents could obtain their flour at home.[43] Later there were several other flouring mills.

Other food was raised at home. The pigs which roamed the streets to the discomfort of the ladies were destined for the family dinner table. "Nearly every family had a garden and kept a cow, and it was a regular thing in preparing for winter to cure pork and beef and make sausages, head cheese and the like."[44] Dressed hogs cost three dollars per hundred pounds.[45] By 1857 there was at least one butcher shop, patronized by families who preferred not to do their own butchering.[46]

Gardens supplied green vegetables in season. Cauliflower was a new vegetable, just beginning to be grown.[47] Watermelons made delicious additions to the late summer menu.[48] Potatoes and other vegetables were stored in cellars for use during the winter.[49]

Wild fruits were plentiful. "Wild fruits are now in season, and the groves and fields are alive with girls and boys who are bent on securing them for market and home use.

Blackberries, cherries and plums are quite abundant."[50] The wild blackberries sold for three cents a quart.[51] "In those days everyone put up her own fruit, and currant jelly (or 'jell' as some of our Ohio friends called it) was very much in evidence. Of berries there were plenty; the same of plums, but the climate seemed against the propagation of fruits in general. Apples did not thrive, and most of our apples came from southern Iowa and northern Missouri."[52] In 1857, however, George Greene planted one hundred acres of his "Mound Farm" with 150,000 fruit and ornamental trees. He advertised a long list of hardy fruit trees.[53] This did a great deal to popularize fruit growing and to prove that many varieties of fruit, especially apples, could be grown in this part of Iowa.

Game was abundant for many years. The first settlers hunted for food rather than for sport, for game was an important supplement to foodstuffs hauled from the river at Muscatine or Dubuque, sixty or eighty miles away. There were deer in abundance near Cedar Rapids and buffalo and elk a few miles west. There were also many wild turkeys, quail and pheasants.[54] The prairies sheltered thousands of prairie chickens. By 1858, the editor reported: "Our sporting men are having a fine time among themselves at the present time. Game of all kinds is said to be in abundance within a few hours' ride of the city. We notice, daily,

large quantities of prairie chickens and pigeons in our markets. Mr. Vanderbilt caught one hundred pigeons in one net, last Monday morning."[55] Mrs. W. W. Walker described a delicacy much prized for special occasions. This consisted of the bodies of either prairie chicken or quail, from which the wings and legs had been cut. They were soaked in brine to which cloves, cinnamon and pepper had been added, then dried in the sun or smoked. They were then stored and later served in thin slices.[56] In addition to other game rabbits were also plentiful. The Cedar supplied pioneer fishermen with pickerel, black bass, white bass, buffalo, salmon and catfish.[57]

Cedar Rapids residents who liked ale with their meals were supplied by A. Wetzel who established a large new brewery in 1849.[58]

Food was preserved in the summer by means of ice, but putting in a summer's supply of ice was up to the individual who cut and stored it himself. During the summer of 1856 some ice was hauled in from Iowa City, at a cost of one dollar for each hundred pounds plus a fifty cent hauling charge.[59] By 1859, there was still no one in the ice business, so the citizens were putting in their own supply. It was "of good thickness, and as clear as a crystal."[60]

A good example of pioneer food was the Thanksgiving supper menu which G. R. Stonehouse, proprietor of the Valley

City Saloon served his customers in 1859:

Soup: Oysters

Fish: Fried Pickeral and Cod Fish Balls

Boiled: Beefs Loins, Leg Mutton

Entrees: Fried Oysters, Raw Oysters, Oyster Fritters and Sardines

Roast: Turkey, Chicken, Mutton, Pork and Venison

Vegetables: Beets, Cucumber Pickles and Fried Potatoes

Puddings and Pastry: Rice Pudding, Mince and Pumpkin Pie

Desert: Raisins, Apples, Pea Nuts, Hazel Nuts, Filberts[31]

NOTES

1. Portrait and Biographical Album of Linn County, Iowa, Chicago, 1887, 135.

2. Ibid.

3. Ibid.

4. Elisha D. Ely, The Ely and Weare Families, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, 1926, 83.

5. "Practicing Medicine in Cedar Rapids in 1849," Cedar Rapids Republican, November 10, 1912.

6. Ely, op. cit., 92.

7. Reprinted in the Cedar Valley Times, November 26, 1857.

8. Jesse Clement, Dubuque Weekly Times, January 6, 1859, as reprinted in "Gleanings from the Notebook of the Itinerating Editor," The Iowa Journal of History and Politics, XXXVIII (July, 1940), 288-89.

9. Ely, op. cit., 92.

10. Cedar Rapids Democrat, February 10, 1857.

11. Cedar Valley Times, December 17, 1857.

12. Ibid.

13. Cedar Rapids Democrat, November 25, 1856.

14. Ely, op. cit., 93.

15. Cedar Valley Times, September 3, 1857.

16. Cedar Rapids Democrat, May 12, 1857.

17. Ibid., June 2, 1857.

18. Ibid., July 1, 1856.

19. Ibid., July 8, 1856.

20. Ibid., July 29, 1856.

21. Ibid., June 2, 1857.

22. Cedar Valley Times, January 28, 1856.

23. Cedar Rapids Democrat, August 19, 1856.

24. Cedar Valley Times, June 10, 1858.

25. Ibid., October 13, 1859.

26. Ibid., August 5, 1858.

27. Ibid., November 5, 1857.

28. As advertised in the Cedar Rapids Democrat during the summer of 1856.

29. Ibid., December 2, 1856.

30. Ely, op. cit., 44-45.

31. Cedar Valley Times, August 12, 1858.

32. Ibid., July 5, 1860.

33. Ibid., April 11, 1861.

34. Ibid., July 5, 1860.

35. Charles A. Laurance, Pioneer Days in Cedar Rapids, 1936, 22-23.

36. Cedar Rapids Democrat, July 29, 1856.

37. Cedar Valley Times, December 8, 1859.

38. Laurance, op. cit., 22-23.

39. Cedar Rapids Democrat, during the summer of 1856.

40. Cedar Valley Times, March 28, 1861.

41. W. L. Ewing, "First House of Worship Built 90 Years Ago on West Bank of Cedar River Still Stands," Cedar Rapids Gazette, November 20, 1927.

42. George R. Carroll, Pioneer Life In and Around Cedar Rapids, Iowa, from 1839-1859, Cedar Rapids, 1895, 138-39.

43. Ely, op. cit., 34.

44. Ibid., 88.

45. Ibid., 73.

46. The proprietor of this establishment was robbed of seventy dollars while he was enjoying the "'glorious effects'" of "imbibing slightly" in the room adjoining that from which the money was taken. Cedar Rapids Democrat, February 10, 1857.

47. Cedar Valley Times, November 5, 1857.

48. Cedar Rapids Democrat, August 3, 1856. Melon patches were raided then as now.

49. Ely, op. cit., 89.

50. Cedar Valley Times, August 9, 1860.

51. Ely, op. cit., 73.

52. Ibid., 88.

53. Cedar Rapids Democrat, March 10, 1857.

54. Carroll, op. cit., 40-41; 48.

55. Cedar Valley Times, September 2, 1858.

56. Cedar Rapids Gazette and Republican, August 19, 1928.

57. Carroll, op. cit., 40-41; 48.

58. Cedar Valley Times, December 8, 1859.

59. Cedar Rapids Democrat, February 3, 1857.

60. Cedar Valley Times, December 29, 1859.

61. Ibid., December 1, 1859.

Chapter II

THE CHURCHES AND SOCIAL LIFE

The churches were of great importance in the social life of Cedar Rapids. The town was settled by people who believed in the importance of religion. They were willing to work and sacrifice to establish churches and to make the community a desirable place in which to live and to rear their children. Established churches made Cedar Rapids more attractive to new settlers. They also provided wholesome social life and recreation at a time when there was little of either. Women, especially, were active in church work. Each church soon had a little group of loyal women, banded together in a mite society or sewing circle, who earned money to furnish the church and to pay the minister's salary, and who spent long hours, patiently sewing by hand, to fashion garments to clothe the heathen overseas. The churchpeople of Cedar Rapids and the community as a whole owe much to the hard working, self-sacrificing pioneers.

The Methodists were the first to organize as a society. The Rock River Conference sent the Reverend John Hodges in 1840 to what was known as the "Marion Circuit." He made the rounds on horseback and mentioned that he had to swim the river on horseback three to six times each round.[1]

He preached in the fall of 1840 at the John Listeburger cabin on the west side (which was still standing in 1927).[2] He was replaced on the circuit by the Reverend O. W. Ingham who preached occasionally at the Carroll schoolhouse and the home of Levi Lewis on the east side, and at the Listeburger cabin on the west side. In the summer of 1843 he preached at the latter cabin three or four times and organized twelve people into a Methodist "society" or church. Included among these were David W. King and his wife, for whom Kingston, the settlement on the west side of the Cedar, was named.[3] In 1843 the Methodists began meeting on the east side in the schoolhouse at the northwest corner of what is now Second Avenue and Fifth Street.[4]

In 1854 the Methodist society paid Judge Greene one hundred and eighty dollars for the lot where the Union station now stands. The next year they built there a one room brick church. Before the roof was put on the walls blew down, so the pastor, Elias Skinner, and the men of his congregation, cleaned the brick and rebuilt the walls. The church was dedicated in 1856 and used until 1870 when a new church was built at the corner of Fourth Avenue and Fifth Street, which was then at the outskirts of the city.[5]

The Presbyterians were also active in Cedar Rapids within four or five years of the city's founding. The first ministers to visit the county were William Rankin and

John Boal. There were services at the home of Barnet Lutz as early as 1842 and at the home of John Vardy in the fall of that year, or in 1843.[6] The first Sunday School was organized in 1843 or 1844, with Mr. Vardy as superintendent. It met in his home.[7] By 1847 the Presbyterians were ready to organize as a church. They held a meeting in the schoolhouse July 9, 1847.[8] Nine men and women made up the first list of members. Mr. Vardy, who was the owner of the first frame house in town, was chosen ruling elder, and Alexander Ely, builder of the first flouring mill, was also chosen an elder.[9] At first there was no regular minister, but the little group met for worship as often as the Presbytery sent them a preacher.[10] The Reverend Bennett Roberts came down from Marion to preach "powerful" sermons.[11] In less than two years, by April 2, 1849, the Presbyterians were sufficiently well established to call a minister. The Reverend Williston Jones, who started the first little school which afterward became Coe College, accepted the call.[12] The Presbyterians, like the Methodists, met in the schoolhouse until 1850.

In 1849 Addison Daniels deeded to the church the lot where the old Postoffice Building now stands.[13] Plans were made to build a church building. Four hundred dollars was raised and advanced to the brick maker, who left for California with the funds.[14] This was a serious setback,

"The times were close, and very little of cash subscription could be obtained, and only a limited amount of labor, lumber, and other material could be gathered."[15] The men of the church gathered to work on the walls, while the women served coffee and doughnuts to speed the work.[16] They made the walls of a mixture of lime morter and thin cobblestones quarried from the ground near the Milwaukee depot. The church building was called "Little Muddy" because of its dark color.[17] It was 26 by 40 feet in size.[18] By December 25, 1849, the structure was still without a roof, so the Reverend Williston Jones wrote Mrs. J. F. Fly, who was in the East, asking for help. She collected one hundred dollars from eastern friends so that by spring the building was enclosed.[19]

"During that summer, a fine toned bell weighing about three hundred and twenty-five pounds, was procured through the efforts of the ladies' sewing society. It was first mounted on a frame about fifteen feet above the ground. Afterwards it was placed in a tower erected of wood in front. This tower was eight feet square and about thirty-five feet high. A convenient vestibule was formed by the lower portion. The bell was used not only for church services and other meetings, but also, for many years, it rang out fire alarms, and its clear tones were heard in the dawn of the great national holiday."[20]

Although the building was completed and the bell

procured, there still remained the problem of furniture. The sum of seventy-five dollars was borrowed to add to the scanty funds raised by the congregation and the church was furnished. The pulpit was made by Henry Nelson of black walnut.[21] "The [first] seats were made of slabs dressed off and raised on legs."[22] The building was dedicated, January 12, 1851.[23] "In 1853 the church was as it was originally built, and was quite small. The choir was in front facing the pulpit. There was a centre row of seats with an aisle on each side, and a row of seats next to each side wall; also a row of a few seats each side of the pulpit."[24] The church prospered and the building was enlarged in the spring and summer of 1859 "when twenty feet was added to its length, increasing its capacity about fifty per cent..."[25] "The...addition was of brick, plastered to correspond with the rest of the building."[26] The Times commented: "We are gratified to note the evidences of prosperity of the First Presbyterian Church, under the pastorship of the faithful and able minister of the Gospel, Rev. I. W. Atherton. The congregation, in order to meet the wants of the increasing numbers who make their weekly visits there to satisfy their spiritual desires, are erecting a very considerable addition to the church building. When completed it will be quite as commodious as the largest of our other houses of public worship."[27]

The Presbyterian church had a flourishing Sunday School. "The Sunday School was a Sunday School at which the children learned something of the scriptures. They were given little cards for a certain number of verses committed to memory, to be exchanged for cards representing a larger number, which eventually terminated in a prize, usually a 'good' book."[28] Besides the books given as prizes there was also a Sunday School library from which the children could borrow books.[29] This was probably one of the first libraries in the city.

The third church to be organized in Cedar Rapids was Grace Episcopal Church. Judge George Greene was instrumental in bringing the Reverend James Keeler, a missionary, to hold regular services in 1850. The General Board of Missions contributed a regular sum toward his salary and the Greene brothers agreed to guarantee the balance.[30] The first vestry meeting was October 9, 1850. There were at that time only six communicants.[31] The first meeting place was a schoolhouse, probably the one at the corner of Second Avenue and Fifth Street. Later they met in Miss Elizabeth Calder's schoolroom on the second floor of a building where the Sunshine Mission now stands. Still later the congregation moved to a building farther down the river, the second floor of which was used for the storage of grain.[32] The grain ran through the cracks of the floor

above, and in warm weather the services were often interrupted by hogs who entered the building in search of it.[33] At other times a family occupied the room above and the reading of the psalms was punctuated by the rocking of the cradle.[34]

The first Episcopal church built was the structure which is now the chapel of Grace Church. The cornerstone was laid by the Right Reverend Jackson Kemper, Bishop of the Northwest, October 27, 1851.[35] The women of the Presbyterian church, who had worked in co-operation with the Episcopal women, attended the ceremony in a body. They marched up the Fifth Street hill and circled around the church site, singing:

> The hill of Zion yields
> A thousand sacred sweets
> Before we reach the heavenly gate
> And walk the golden streets.[36]

As soon as the church basement was completed benches were installed and the congregation worshipped there until the structure was completed.[37] By 1856 the parish numbered thirty-six families with forty communicants.[38] At that time the church was completed and, being free from debt, was consecrated by Bishop Lee, of the Diocese of Iowa.[39] The two lots on which the church stands were given by Judge George Greene, who also presented the parish with a small melodeon at about this time.[40] The communion service and alter linens were the gifts of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel B. Beresford,

including a beautiful velvet altar cloth embroidered by Mrs. Beresford.[41] A pioneer recalled, "For a long time we had no baptismal font, and a silver bowl from Mrs. [Elizabeth Calder] Rock's set was set apart for that use. The present white marble font was given by the Sunday School."[42] When the D. C. Bevers moved to Cedar Rapids in 1852, they brought with them from Pittsburgh a fine toned bell, weighing seven hundred and fifty pounds, as a present to the new and struggling parish. This was first set on blocks and rung by striking it with a hammer. Later, when the church was completed,[43] it was hung in the tower.

In the spring of 1857 the Grace Church vestry voted to tell the Missionary Association for the West that after May 1, 1858 it would be self-sustaining. This was accomplished, however, by February 23, 1858. The rector generously gave up one hundred dollars of his small salary to accomplish this. The parish entertained the Convention of the Diocese of Iowa in Cedar Rapids that year.[44]

The Sunday School was begun in the fall of 1850 at the time of the organization of the church. It also met in Miss Calder's schoolroom. Judge Greene served as superintendent and Miss Calder as a teacher for many years.[45] Judge Greene also helped obtain the Sunday School library from the Church headquarters in New York and contributed some books himself.[46] This was another early library.

"Real missionary work was done by the Sunday School classes long before the Woman's Auxiliary to the Board of Missions was organized, and the Woman's Guild sent money and boxes to colored and Indian Missions and to families of our missionaries in the west and south."[46] The ladies were busy redecorating the church in 1858. "We were greatly surprised last Sunday, on entering the Episcopal church, in seeing the improvements that had been made during the past two weeks. The walls look more like church walls, and the pulpit and seats appeared as if they were made anew. The ladies of the Aid Society are entitled to the honor."[47]

Other church groups were organized before the Civil War. Among these were the Old School Presbyterians (later the Second Presbyterian Church), who began in 1855.[48] The editor of the Times commented on the church:

> The new church which has been finished by the Old School Presbyterian Society of this city, is now ready for occupancy and will be dedicated next Sabbath morning at 10½ o'clock.
>
> The new building, though not a large one, is a very neat and tasty structure, and does credit both to our young city, and to the congregation which has erected it. It is 35x47 feet, of brick, and will, without crowding seat two hundred and seventy persons....
>
> The O. S. Presbyterian Society have heretofore worshipped in Daniel's Hall.[49]

The Baptists also were active. They dedicated their new church September, 1857. The service commenced

with a voluntary anthem "'I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord.'" Elder De Witt of Marion preached the sermon using Exodus 20:24 as his text, and the dedicatory prayer was offered by the pastor, Elder James Woodward. The services closed with the anthem, "'I have thought of thy loving kindness in the midst of thy Temple.'"[50] "The church is a small but neat and pleasant edifice, and reflects much credit on a congregation organized only eighteen months ago."[51]

The churches continued to play an active, important part in the social life of the little community. There were various functions, usually sponsored by the women. Their primary purpose was to raise money for some worthy object. A secondary purpose was fellowship and recreation.

The first "festival" of which we have record was one sponsored by the Episcopal ladies. It was held on July 4, 1852 in a new barn belonging to O. C. Beyer, "prettily decorated with green boughs, draperies [bunting?] and [patriotic?] pictures."[52] A large box of children's clothing and other articles, which had been sent by a church guild in New York, was sold. A sum of more than one hundred dollars was cleared.[53]

The ladies of the Methodist church held a "donation festival," in February 1857, for the benefit of the pastor. A supper was served and the articles donated were sold for

the sum of two hundred dollars.[54] In 1860 there was another festival for the purpose of paying off a debt on the church.[55] The next year a disastrous fire burned the furniture of the Methodist parsonage. The mother of the Reverend W. W. Esterbrook put hot bricks in her bed to warm it, then left the house for the meeting of the Mite Society. The bricks set fire to the bed and most furniture was burned, although the house was not destroyed. When the fire was discovered, the ladies left the meeting in such a hurry that their dresses were considerably torn. The following week, a "donation party" and supper to refurnish the parsonage were held. The ticket receipts for the supper were applied to the pastor's salary and the donations sold. The sum of one hundred and fourteen dollars was received.[56]

The women of the First Presbyterian Church were active in 1859 and 1860 under the leadership of the new pastor, the Reverend Isaac W. Atherton, who was a graduate of the Auburn, New York, Theological Seminary.[57] Blinds were purchased for the windows, the steeple was completed and painted, the interior was whitewashed and carpeted, and new pews were purchased.[58] The pews were rented to the congregation July 18, 1859, which added a welcome source of income.[59] The Reverend Atherton was ordained that fall and installed a year later, with appropriate ceremonies.[60] Just before Christmas, 1859, there was a "donation party"

for him from which two hundred and twenty-five dollars was received.[61] In the summer of 1860 there was a musical entertainment and ice cream festival from which the ladies cleared seventy-six dollars.[62] In the fall they were soliciting contributions for a melodeon.[63] The Old School Presbyterian ladies gave a musical entertainment and oyster supper, December 20, 1860, with admission to both for the reasonable sum of fifty cents.[64] These money raising projects were essential to the continued existence of the churches, and they provided an opportunity for the people of Cedar Rapids to work and play together.

While the women's church groups were active in money raising and gathering for fellowship, they also carried on some of the community charity work which has since been taken over by governmental agencies. Mrs. Elizabeth Calder Rock told of "Old Libby", a dissolute old woman who haunted the bars and sometimes slept, dead-drunk, in the gutter. When she died the Episcopal women gave her decent burial. At the funeral service, the new rector, unaware of Libby's past, announced the hymn as, "Sister, Thou Art Meek and Gentle," while the congregation tried to restrain their laughter.[65]

The churches of Cedar Rapids co-operated freely, long before the Ministerial Union was organized. This was especially true at Thanksgiving. In 1856 services were

held at the Methodist Church.[66] The following year joint services were held at the First Presbyterian Church, with the Baptist minister as preacher.[67] In 1859 they were held in the Methodist Church with the sermon preached by the Presbyterian minister who spoke on the "Nature and Obligations of Pure Patriotism."[68] The next year the Reverend Mr. Mitchell of the Second Presbyterian church preached at the First Presbyterian Church.[69] The Sunday Schools were also united for "pic nics." Three hundred west side children and a number of adults picnicked in a grove about a mile and a half east of town in September, 1858. The address was given by J. W. Walker.[70] The Sunday Schools of all the churches held a joint celebration, July 4, 1865. There was music and singing by the children, followed by speeches by two of the ministers.[71]

Considerable interest was shown during the long winters in revival meetings. There were several in progress at nearby points in December, 1857.[72] A revival was held at Concert Hall in January, 1851, with some conversions every evening.[73] It was to be hoped that none of the Cedar Rapids converts fell from grace as did a certain resident of a nearby community. Mr. Bennet, who kept a "billiard saloon" experienced religion, closed his room and fitted it up for prayer meeting purposes. Thereafter, he transferred his tables to Vinton, where the "sinful" activity continued

as before.[74] The Baptists were very successful in early 1861 in a series of revival meetings which continued every night and Sunday. Thirty-two persons were baptized in the river by the Reverend A. G. Eberhart during a three week period. No ill effects were reported by the hardy group who had their sins washed away while the thermometer read eleven degrees below zero.[75]

There was an early and continuing interest in the temperance question in Cedar Rapids. A number of lecturers spoke on the subject each year. A Temperance Society was organized in the summer of 1850. In the constitution the following pledge was included: "'We will not make, buy, sell or use as a beverage any alcoholic, intoxicating or malt liquors, not excepting wines, cider or lager beer; but will use all honorable means to prevent their manufacture, sale or use, except for strictly mechanical, medicinal and sacramental purposes.'"[76] At times the controversy became quite heated. During a temperance lecture at the Methodist Church a large stone was thrown through the window, which fortunately did not strike anyone. The editor commented: "A few minutes before the stone was thrown, one of the audience had left the church in high dudgeon, on account of the lecturer's remarks about the selling of intoxicating liquors. Perhaps the two incidents had some connection."[77] Church members individually supported the cause, while the

churches, as organizations, aided by lending their buildings as meeting places.

Two other societies were promoted by the churches and church members. The Cedar Rapids Bible society made its annual report in September, 1857. Society members had visited two hundred and sixty families in town and had found thirteen of them destitute. Of the four hundred and sixty-seven country families visited, forty-five were found destitute. The society distributed books valued at twenty-seven dollars and eighty cents. Since nothing other than books is reported to have been offered the destitute families (in the true spirit of John Calvin), it must be concluded that they read their Bibles and thereupon prospered exceedingly. The Cedar Valley Tract Society held its first annual meeting in January, 1853. They had nineteen lady visitors who visited two hundred and twenty-seven families each month. Tracts numbering three thousand, two hundred and fifty or thirteen thousand pages were distributed. The children were invited to attend Sunday School and the adults to attend church and Bible classes. The books and tracts were placed on sale at a downtown business house. It was hoped they would improve the community morals.[79]

The pioneer churches of Cedar Rapids were important in making the city a better place in which to live, in promoting Christian fellowship and social recreation, and

in mobilizing public opinion behind the worthwhile causes of the time. It should be remembered that the three earliest churches as well as some of the later ones were mission churches promoted and assisted by contributions from older communities. Without this support and the devoted effort of the pioneer men and women the wholesome influence of churches would have been long delayed.

NOTES

1. W. L. Ewing, "First House of Worship, Built 90 Years Ago on West Bank of Cedar River, Still Stands," Cedar Rapids Gazette, November 20, 1927.

2. Ibid.

3. George R. Carroll, Pioneer Life In and Around Cedar Rapids, Iowa, from 1839-1849, Cedar Rapids, 1895, 58-59. Carroll gives 1841 as the date when Mr. Ingham replaced Mr. Hodges. Ewing says Mr. Ingham came in 1843, with the Reverend Isaac Searles in charge from 1842 to 1843.

4. Ewing, loc. cit.

5. Ibid.

6. Carroll, op. cit., 59.

7. Ibid., 195.

8. Ibid., 196.

9. Edward R. Burkhalter, "History of the First Presbyterian Church," First Presbyterian Church, The Seventy-Fifth Anniversary, Cedar Rapids, 1922, 7.

10. Ibid., 9.

11. Carroll, op. cit., 196.

12. Burkhalter, loc. cit., 9.

13. Ibid., 10.

14. J. F. Ely, "The Building of 'Little Muddy,'" First Presbyterian Church, The Seventy-Fifth Anniversary, Cedar Rapids, 1922, 44.

15. Ibid., 45.

16. Ibid.

17. Carroll, op. cit., 178.

18. Caroline Rowley Hubbard, "From a Paper on the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society," First Presbyterian Church, The Seventy-Fifth Anniversary, Cedar Rapids, 1922, 31.

19. J. F. Ely, loc. cit., 45.

20. Ibid., 49.

21. Ibid.

22. Hubbard, loc. cit., 31.

23. J. F. Ely, loc. cit., 49.

24. Elisha D. Ely, The Ely and Meare Families, Cedar Rapids, 1926, 40.

25. Burwalter, loc. cit., 10-11. The correct date is probably 1860; cf. note 27, below.

26. Ibid.

27. Cedar Valley Times, July 19, 1860.

28. Elisha Ely, op. cit., 40.

29. Ibid.

30. "Beginning of Grace Church," The Iowa Churchman, Dubuque, Iowa, 1906, 6.

31. Samuel Edson, Historical Sketch of Grace Church, Cedar Rapids, 1871, 11.

32. Ibid., 11-12.

33. The History of Linn County, Iowa, Containing A History of the County, its Cities, Towns, &c., Chicago, 1878, 304.

34. Ibid.

35. Edson, op. cit., 12.

36. "Mrs. Elizabeth Rock and Mrs. Ellen C. Keeler, Distinguished Pioneers, Recall Many Early Happenings in Cedar Rapids," Cedar Rapids Gazette, December 12, 1925.

37. "Beginning of Grace Church," loc. cit.

38. Edson, op. cit., 7.

39. Ibid., 13-13.

40. Ibid., 14; "Beginning of Grace Church," loc. cit., 13.

41. Edson, op. cit., 13-14.

42. "Beginning of Grace Church," loc. cit., 13.

43. Edson, op. cit., 12; The History of Linn County ..., 505.

44. Edson, op. cit., 14.

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45. "Beginning of Grace Church," loc. cit., 6.

46. Ibid., 13.

47. Cedar Valley Times, May 20, 1858.

48. The History of Linn County..., 505.

49. Cedar Valley Times, July 29, 1858.

50. Ibid., September 17, 1857.

51. Ibid.

52. "Beginning of Grace Church," loc. cit., 7.

53. Ibid.

54. Cedar Rapids Democrat, February 17, 24, 1857.

55. Cedar Valley Times, March 29, 1860.

56. Ibid., February 21, 28, 1861.

57. Ibid., July 14, 1859.

58. Ibid.

59. Ibid.

60. Ibid., September 22, 1859; November 15, 1860.

61. Ibid., December 22, 29, 1859.

62. Ibid., July 28; August 9, 1860.

63. Ibid., October 25, 1860.

64. Ibid., December 13, 1860.

65. Rock, loc. cit.

66. Cedar Rapids Democrat, November 25, 1856.

67. Cedar Valley Times, November 17, 1857.

68. Ibid., November 24, 1859.

69. Ibid., November 22, 1860.

70. Ibid., September 2, 9, 1858.

71. Ibid., June 14, 1860.

72. Ibid., December 17, 1857.

73. Ibid., January 10, 1861.

74. Ibid., February 16, 1860.

75. Ibid., January 31; February 7, 14, 1861.

76. Ibid., June 21, 1860.

77. Ibid., March 28, 1860.

78. Ibid., September 10, 1857.

79. Ibid., January 7, 1858.

Chapter III

RECREATION AND HOLIDAYS

The earliest recreation in Cedar Rapids was strictly homemade. The men and women of the isolated community were thrown on their own resources for amusement. "There were quilting bees, spelling schools, barn raisings, log rolling, debating schools, singing schools, and many other gatherings which frequently ended with a barn dance or a house warming supper, provided by the host and hostess."[1]

Most of these gatherings of neighbors for recreation, or to do jointly that work which could not be done by one family, have gone unrecorded. We may be sure they took place, just as they did from the time of the earliest colonial settlements to the more limited form of neighborly co-operation of the present day.

One of the first examples of recreation and co-operation in Cedar Rapids was the building of the log house of the Carroll family, described as the "best house in Linn County at that time."[2]

> The raising of the house was a time of great interest, not only to our own family, but to everybody in the neighborhood for miles around. Everybody turned out to the raising, and great care was taken to lay up the corners square and plumb, and when the last log was shoved up on the skids to its destined place, it was a time

> of general rejoicing among the weary workmen who had labored so faithfully and willingly during the day.3

Another early houseraising was the building of the grist mill at McLeod Springs, where John G. McLeod had a claim.

> It was in 1841, two years after our arrival [of the Carroll family], that this mill was built. I remember well when Mr. McLeod came to invite our family to the raising. After extending the invitation to father and the older boys, he turned to mother and said, "You must come, too, and bring all your dishes with you."...Of course mother was only too glad to go, with her dishes and cooking utensils, together with what provisions she could supply, and do all she could towards providing a good dinner for the busy workmen who were assisting in this new and welcome enterprise.4

This strenuous activity was not without hazard, for two men suffered broken legs in a barn raising in 1856.[5]

There were plenty of outdoor sports and amusements for adults and children alike.

> The boys of early Cedar Rapids had not the many artificial aids for entertainment as those of this generation. They all had their chores to do night and morning, with school hours in between. But on Saturday when chores had been done it was the boys' time for recreation and the river, summer and winter, their main resource. In summer, it was boating, swimming and fishing; in winter, all kinds of sports on the ice. Every boy had a pair of skates and a sled and was generally a good skater. Coasting hills were plenty, and skating space unlimited. Our favorite place for skating was on the "slough," the back water of the dam, and there the town boys congregated (and the girls too) and the day was spent in games, which in many cases called for much skill and endurance. I should also mention the various ponds about the town which in the fall of

the year provided skating before the slough and the river were frozen over. The Big Pond extended from about Fourth Avenue to Ninth Avenue and diagonally between Sixth and Eighth Streets, and was often covered with skaters.6

The Times editor advised:

Get your Skates Ready.--The skating season is at hand, and all lovers of this sport should make ready therefore. R. C. Rock has a very large assortment to select from, and we advise all those in want to call early and examine.7

Sleighing was another winter sport, although it had its utilitarian side; for runners were necessary to get to town for supplies over the drifted roads of mid-winter. The sleighing was good in January 1857, and many vehicles of all descriptions were out.[8] The employees of the Times office drove the seventeen miles to Lisbon in weather ten degrees below zero for a sleigh ride. After entertainment and warmth at the hotel there, they returned to Cedar Rapids, arriving home at five in the morning.[9]

In the spring and summer baseball was a popular sport.[10] There were also picnics along the river bank. "Just below town, in the narrows, was a favorite picnic place, and it was considered quite romantic."[11] Sunday school picnics for the children of Cedar Rapids have already been mentioned.[12]

Fishing was a sport in both summer and winter. Fishing was excellent for many years and included black bass, white bass, buffalo, salmon, and pickerel as well as

catfish.[13] Fish weighing as much as twenty to thirty pounds were caught.[14] Mrs. W. W. Walker described winter fishing and winter picnics:

> For winter time sport, we had fishing parties. An expert fisherman would put up a tent on the ice below the dam. He placed a light in the tent, made a hole in the ice, put hooks in the water and ran the lines out under the bottom of the tent. The light would lure the fish and excellent ones would be caught.
>
> When everything was ready, a great party of us wrapped in warm furs would go down in sleighs. A huge bon-fire would be ready and we had the grandest time - indeed it was quite an event in our lives. We took ham and bread and some times chicken and of course we had hot broiled fish....
>
> We sat on logs before the fire and sang and ate, and then after the repast was over we danced by the firelight until an early hour. The following day we were rather burned and weather beaten and we didn't amount to much, but it was a rare and curious sport.[15]

In late summer after harvest the men and women of Cedar Rapids went out to hunt prairie chickens and quail. Prairie chickens were also trapped. Thousands were killed and either kept or sold each season.[16]

Besides sport as recreation, there were occasional social functions such as dances and receptions. Robert Ellis told of dances in the early days.

> We had dances every once in a while, from house to house, and when the school house was built we used to have dances there. I remember an incident connected with one of these dances. I was appointed as one of the managers and had to get the fiddler. Someone told me there was one to be had up at Center Point. I went up there to see him about it, and as we talked I found out that he had two sisters.

> I was introduced to them and asked them if they would come to the dance. They said they would so another young man and myself went up there twenty miles after them for the dance. We danced all night and then had to see about getting them home the next day. It was nothing in those days to go after music twenty miles.17

The marriage of Sarah Weare to Dr. Seymour D. Carpenter, July 6, 1859, was another event of great local interest.

> She was married at the home of her sister, Mary and there was a grand reception in the evening at "the public hall" which had been elaborately decorated for the Fourth of July celebration, the decorations remaining. The whole town was invited, and the affair was a grand social event.18

In 1860 was held a Railroad Ball. The announcement read:

> The employees of the Chicago, Iowa and Nebraska Railroad together with a number of their friends will give a Ball at Daniels' Hall, to-morrow evening. It will be a fine affair, and those that "trip the light fantastic too" may be assured of having a first rate time.19

Two impromptu celebrations were exciting social events. The first was held September 1, 1858.

> The city of Cedar Rapids was brilliantly illuminated, last evening, in honor of the great event of the age--the successful laying of the Atlantic Cable. Nearly every business house in town was in a perfect blaze of light. A large bonfire at the intersection of Iowa Avenue and Commercial street [Roosevelt Hotel corner], aided in dispelling the darkness of the night. On the roof of Franklin Block, over the Times office, was a large transparency, some six feet by ten, bearing appropriate mottos. Although the display was

> imperfect, for the want of some speeches, firing of cannon, ringing of bells, &c., yet for an impromptu affair it was certainly a very brilliant one.[20]

The second took place May 22, 1860. A group of delegates from the Republican National Convention which had just nominated Abraham Lincoln, stopped their special train at Cedar Rapids. An impromptu parade was formed, headed by the De Witt brass band, playing "Hail Columbia." Carried on the shoulders of two "sturdy Republicans" was an armchair made of oak rails split by "Old Abe." At nine in the evening there were speeches and a huge bonfire at the corner of Iowa Avenue and Commercial Street.[21]

Another item from the Republican Times told of a Democratic Grand Barbecue which took place in 1859. According to the editor an effort had been made to find thirty-three young ladies to represent the thirty-three states. "Some would go if fifteen of them could be allowed to dress in mourning to represent the slave states. One lady would go if she could be permitted to wear red stockings to represent 'bleeding Kansas.' The Committee, poor fellows, gave up the task, and the states were not represented. The Cedar Rapids ladies are sensible as well as beautiful."[22]

Holidays were spent much as they are today, except that much more emphasis was placed on the Fourth of July celebration. It was the highlight of the summer for

children and adults alike. Each celebration followed much the same pattern. There was first a picnic dinner, followed by floods of long, old-fashioned oratory. Fireworks and anvil firing aided the festivities.

In 1839, when there were only one or two cabins on the banks of the Cedar, the people of the county celebrated at Westport. "Nearly all the people in the county were present and some from adjoining settlements. A grand old time was had, everybody joining heartily in feast and sports. The day, or rather night was closed with a dance in which all participated. The sun was shining on the fifth of July ere the celebrators had concluded their festivities."[23]

In 1854 the big celebration was at Hoosier Grove in Putnam Township. A. D. Belt was the orator and his speech was reported as "good." Across the river from Cedar Rapids, in Kingston, a flagpole was raised. "They also thundered with anvils and cracked with fire crackers, and generally made a fair display of patriotism." The only excitement in Cedar Rapids was the runaway of a span of horses in which the wagon was upset, but no one hurt.[24]

Fourth of July was a quiet day in Cedar Rapids in 1858. The west side citizens again raised a liberty flagpole, and displayed a few fireworks. The boys on the east side burned some barrels, some powder and "fire balls"

and made some unearthly noises. There were celebrations, however, in neighboring townships, in Monroe Township, in Palo, Scotch Grove and Shueyville, each with its traditional orator. In Clinton Township "everything passed off in fine order, especially the bountiful dinner. It led us to the conclusion that roast pig and chicken, pork and beans, and pumpkin pie, with all the etceteras, are capital reminders of any great national event."[25]

In 1859 Cedar Rapids citizens again left their home town to celebrate the glorious fourth elsewhere in the county. The Marion celebration drew an estimated four thousand people. There was a free dinner followed by an oration by one of the Mt. Vernon ministers and a series of toasts and responses. Lisbon had a temperance celebration for two thousand people. The dinner tables were set five times. President Beeler of Cornell College spoke, there was music by the Mt. Vernon brass band, as well as ten toasts with proper responses. Presumably the toasts were drunk in water. Palo had two thousand visitors and a similar program, with fife and drum music. The Sunday School children were there in a body.[26] Everyone who could possibly get to one of the celebrations went to eat the picnic dinner, listen to the oration and toasts, and celebrated as noisily as possible the birthday of the United States.

The other holidays were spent more quietly. In 1855 the editor of the Democrat philosophized:

> Again in the cycle of years this time honored day, has come--been observed--and has departed to be joined with its congeners of the past. Pleasant associations dwell in its memories. Our citizens enjoyed themselves as well as the inclemency of the weather would permit. Places of business were generally closed. Divine service was performed in the Methodist Church and was numerously attended. Nothing occurred to mar the harmony of the day except the rain.27

The following year was much the same.

> Thanksgiving Day in Cedar Rapids passed off in good old New England style. In the morning the people assembled at the churches and adjourned themselves to turkey, and the evening was devoted to social reunions....28

That evening the young people enjoyed a Thanksgiving party.

> In the evening a large number of the young people assembled at Greene's Hotel and enjoyed one of the most pleasant sociables that it has been our fortune to attend for a long time.--About nine o'clock the company adjourned to the dining hall, and surrounded the tables which were heavily laden with all manner of good things.29

Afterward they sang a song especially composed for the occasion, the tables were cleared away and there was dancing until the "small hours of the morning."[30]

Christmas was strictly a home festival, although the Episcopal Church announced service for Christmas day in 1857.[31]

The Methodist Church held a watch meeting the

night of New Year's Eve, 1859, and invited the public to attend.[32] Other observances of New Year's must have been private. Mrs. Walker told that the custom of her family was to keep open house. "Our friends drove over from Anamosa and other neighboring towns for the day in sleighs. We always provided a great array of hot mince pies, plum puddings, cake, coffee, bread and butter and the tasty dried prairie chicken."[33]

Although the people of Cedar Rapids organized their own entertainment, a good many professional performers appeared there before the outbreak of the Civil War. Examples included Longriche and Atwater's Theatrical Troupe in 1856 and the Star Dramatic Company in 1858.[34] There were several minstrel shows, Dunn's Minstrels in 1857 and Billy Bell's in 1861.[35] Standard admission prices seem to have been twenty-five cents for adults and fifteen cents for children. In 1857 Miss Sallie St Clair brought her Varieties to town. She was highly acclaimed as an actress and at the end of two weeks of nightly performances the citizens gave her a "complimentary Benefit," for which the hall was "jammed."[36] Another unusual entertainer, a twelve year old boy, Master Moses, was billed as the "American Roscius." Master Moses gave "Shakesperian readings" and his performance as "Shylock" was highly recommended.[37]

Although Shakespearian readings may have interested the adults, the big thrill for adults and children alike was the circus. Levi J. North's Circus was advertised in July, 1856. In return for considerable advertising, and perhaps passes, the editor stated:

> Our readers must not forget that the great National Circus of Levi J. North will astonish the citizens of Cedar Rapids, on Saturday of this week, the 19th. This establishment embraces one of the largest companies in the world, and will, we venture to assert, give ample satisfaction to all who attend. Miss Castella will take a grand aerial ascension, previous to the commencement of the performance; it will be visible to the naked eye, and nothing to pay.--She will walk on a single wire 300 feet in length, to the topmost height of the tent. This feat alone will be worth the price which will be charged for subsequent admission to earthly performances. Turn out.[38]

Besides Miss Castella, there was a "national brass band of 12 persons,...Levi J. North, the unequalled and unapproachable Principal Scenic Rider" and several other acts. Anyone who rode the educated mule, Jack Shepherd, ten times around the circle received ten dollars.[39] Admission was fifty cents with children half price. Although this was reasonable in terms of today's prices, it represented nearly half a day's wages to the workingman of 1856.[40] In spite of the advertisements, the people of Cedar Rapids were disappointed in Levi North's circus, since only a portion of it appeared.[41]

Two weeks later the Yankee Robinson Show played

Cedar Rapids. It included a circus, a collection of living animals, a museum of curiosities and Joe Ginger's minstrels.[42] September 4, 1856, a third circus came to town. It advertised a superb music chariot with full band, a tribe of Seneca Indians and a menagerie including an elephant, seven lions, three tigers, two Senegal leopards, panthers, hyenas, alpacas, kangaroos, monkeys and a Russian bear.[43] If the animals appeared as advertised this must have been one of the first, if not the first, elephant to perform in Cedar Rapids. The editor commented, "The affair was well patronized and gave very general satisfaction."[44]

There were circuses in 1857 and again in 1860.[45] There was some excitement during the former performance. "The Circus, on Saturday last, was well patronized, considering the unfavorableness of the weather. The only occurences during the day which caused any particular excitement were the arrest and confinement in the 'lock-up' of sundry individuals who had endeavored to counteract the disagreeable effects of the outside soakings, by corresponding wettings of the 'inner man.'"[46]

A pioneer recalled the old one ring circuses which traveled in horse-drawn wagons from town to town. "Traveling short distances, before the advent of railroad transportation, the entire equipment was moved at night

after the close of the evening performances. In order that all wagons should follow the same route to the next town to be visited, a pilot wagon led the way, placing torches along the roadside at regular intervals. The torches could easily be followed, the last wagon to leave the circus lot gathering them up. Most circuses went either to Iowa City or Vinton after showing in Cedar Rapids."[47]

While the pioneers of Cedar Rapids were primarily concerned with making a living, they found time for many pleasant hours of recreation.

NOTES

1. Luther A. Brewer and Barthinius L. Wick, History of Linn County, Iowa, From Its Earliest Settlement to the Present Time, Chicago, 1911, vol. I, 98.

2. George R. Carroll, Pioneer Life In and Around Cedar Rapids, Iowa, from 1839-1849, Cedar Rapids, 1895, 23.

3. Ibid.

4. Ibid., 138-39.

5. Cedar Rapids Democrat, December 2, 1856.

6. Elisha D. Ely, The Ely and Weare Families, Cedar Rapids, 1926, 87.

7. Cedar Valley Times, December 22, 1859.

8. Cedar Rapids Democrat, January 13, 1857.

9. Cedar Valley Times, January 31, 1861.

10. Ibid., April 1, 1858.

11. Ely, op. cit., 83.

12. See above, 29.

13. Carroll, op. cit., 40-41.

14. Cedar Valley Times, January 25, 1860.

15. "The Story of Empire Building in Iowa and Pioneer Days in Cedar Rapids, As Revealed by Mrs. W. W. Walker," Cedar Rapids Gazette and Republican, August 19, 1928.

16. Ibid.; Ely, op. cit., 89. These references contain detailed descriptions of this sport.

17. "Stories Told by Robert Ellis," Cedar Rapids Times, February 1, 1912.

18. Ely, op. cit., 63.

19. Cedar Valley Times, April 25, 1860.

20. Ibid., September 2, 1858.

21. Ibid., May 24, 1860.

22. Ibid., October 6, 1859.

23. Iowa It and Biographical Album of Linn County, Iowa, Chicago, 1887, 215.

24. Cedar Rapids Democrat, July 8, 1856.

25. Cedar Valley Times, July 8, 1858.

26. Ibid., July 7, 1859.

27. Cedar Rapids Democrat, November 25, 1856

28. Cedar Valley Times, December 3, 1857.

29. Ibid.

30. Ibid.

31. Ibid., December 24, 1857.

32. Ibid., December 29, 1859.

33. Walker, loc. cit.

34. Cedar Rapids Democrat, August 19, 1856; Cedar Valley Times, January 21, 1858.

35. Cedar Valley Times, December 24, 1857; February 7, 1861.

36. Cedar Rapids Democrat, February 24, March 10, 1857.

37. Ibid., March 24, 1857.

38. Ibid., July 15, 1856.

39. Ibid., July 8, 1856.

40. Ely, op. cit., 58. An employee of the Ely flouring mills received a dollar a day for filling flour barrels, while a clerk who worked in Isbar's store, from six in the morning to nine at night, received thirty-five dollars per month.

41. Cedar Rapids Democrat, July 22, 1856.

42. Ibid., July 22, 1856.

43. Ibid., September 2, 1856.

44. Ibid., September 9, 1856.

45. Cedar Rapids Democrat, May 13, 1857; Cedar Valley Times, July 12, 1860.

46. Cedar Rapids Democrat, June 2, 1857.

47. Charles A. Lawrence, Pioneer Days in Cedar Rapids, Cedar Rapids, 1936, 155.

Chapter IV

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

As soon as the early settlers had settled the pressing problems of breaking the prairie sod, sowing a crop and providing shelter for their families and their farm animals, their thoughts turned to the subject of an education for their children. This was in the New England tradition, for several of the first settlers were of New England origin.

The first school was built on the Carroll farm in 1842, the earliest date when there were enough children to make organization of a school possible. This was a neighborhood school on the east side, some distance from the cabins in downtown Cedar Rapids. The first teacher was Mr. Putnam R. Lawrence.[1]

In describing the school, Mr. Carroll said,

> The school passed off very well, so far as I remember. We had our spelling schools and our exhibitions and our debating society, which were well sustained, and which proved to be not only a source of improvement, but of a great deal of pleasure. One of our text books was the old "English Reader," whose moral tone, and the excellence of whose selections have scarcely been surpassed by any of the school books published in these later years.[2]

At the exhibitions pieces were spoken, including "Nightingale

and Glowworm" by Cooper, and "The Beggar's Petition."[3]

The first school in downtown Cedar Rapids met in the John Vardy home in 1843 and was taught by Mrs. Vardy. (The Vardys started the first Sunday School at the same place.) Later the school was moved to a building on the site of the Granby Building, known as "Long Ornery." Miss Susan Abbe was then the teacher.[4]

The first building especially built for school purposes was erected by three early settlers, H. B. Brown, Geor e Greene and Alexander Ely in 1846-1847. It stood on the corner of Second Avenue and Fifth Street and was later sold to the school district.[5] A marker has been placed there to designate the first school building by the local chapter of the D. A. R.[6]

With increasing population a new school was found necessary, so a three story building was built next to what is now Greene Square, on the same lot later occupied by Washington High School.[7] It was nearing completion in the fall of 1857. The editor commented, "when finished it will be one of the best evidences of our prosperity we have in the city."[8] It was one of the show places of the town in 1860.

> It is built of brick, three stories high, furnished in the most neat and substantial manner, at a cost of fourteen thousand dollars. Our readers can judge by this, of the general character and stamp of the citizens of Cedar Rapids.9

In 1859 appeared this description of the school:

> The average number of scholars in attendance at the Graded School of this city is 225. The total number on the roll thus far this term is 279. We are glad to learn that the School is prospering finely. We would earnestly advise parents to visit it.10

During the winter of that year attendance dropped off. In January 1860 the editor had this to say about the school.

> On Monday last we were conducted through the different departments of the school in our city, and were pleased to note the thriving condition which they represented. Nearly two hundred children assemble at the school house, five days of each week, to receive the instruction which is to prepare them for after life. The school, at present, is divided into four separate departments, graded by the capacity of the scholar, each under the guidance of a competent teacher.11

The heavy teacher load of about fifty children to each teacher was accepted without comment.

On the last day of school in 1860 there was a program or exhibition. The girls read essays and the boys gave declamations. The children sang "The Old House at Home," "My Own Native Land" and "Vacation Song," to the accompaniment of the melodeon. "The Cedar Rapids schools are judged to be as thorough as any in the county, and as advantageous to students from abroad."12

In 1860 there ver five hundred and sixty-one children between the ages of five and twenty-one residing within the city limits. Six hundred sixty-four dollars and

sixty eight cents was received from the county school fund.[13] Cedar Rapids charged out of town scholars the following rates in 1860: for the high school department, six dollars per term, four dollars for the intermediate department, and three dollars for all other departments.[14]

Besides the public school there were several private schools in Cedar Rapids. Miss Elizabeth Calder started a private school for girls in 1860, where the Sunshine Mission now stands. Miss Calder taught French and drawing and two assistants taught piano and English.[15]

The Cedar Rapids Academical Institute under the direction of "E. O. Moore, Jr. and Lady" opened in Carpenter's Hall in October, 1856. The Democrat commented, "The educational facilities of this vicinity have not been adequate to the demand, and the acquisition of this institution, which promises to be conducted with character and ability is very desirable...."[16] There was no further word as to Mr. Moore's success in this enterprise nor how long the school was continued.

The next spring a female seminary was opened by Miss L. M. Huntington. It began in the basement of the Episcopal Church. Her advertisement promised that:

> All the elementary and higher branches of an extended English education, together with Mathmatics and the French Language, will be embraced in the proposed course of instruction. The charge for tuition will be $6.00; payable at the middle of the quarter.17

The Reverend Williston Jones gathered together a small group of boys in late 1851, at his home, where he and his wife taught them reading, writing, geography, algebra, arithmetic, Latin and Greek. Later the class was moved to the Presbyterian Church, "Little Muddy," where David Blakely, a graduate of Knox College, served as teacher. The little school, which was called the Cedar Rapids Collegiate Institute, was the forerunner of Coe College.[18]

In order to secure good education for their children, the people of Cedar Rapids recognized the need for better teacher training. As a consequence, there were a number of teacher's institutes held in the city. A normal school of four week's duration was held in the summer of 1859, sponsored by the school directors of Cedar Rapids.[19] That winter a teacher's institute was held. There were about sixty in attendance, with many turned away because they could not secure free room and board as they had expected.[20] The Linn County teachers organized as an association in the spring of 1857 "to give greater efficiency to our common school system...."[21]

It should be remembered that Cedar Rapids was close to three educational institutions, the State University at Iowa City, Cornell College at Mt. Vernon and Western College at Western. Many items appearing in the

newspapers of the time indicate close ties with these schools. No doubt many Cedar Rapids young people studied there. Members of the staffs of these institutions appeared as speakers before audiences in the city. Their influence on the culture of the town, while hard to measure, must have been strong.

Considerable interest in music was shown by the people of Cedar Rapids in the early days. The first music was vocal singing as there were, at first, no pianos nor even reed organs. Songs and hymns were sung at home and hymns at church services. The first instruments brought in were the bass viol, the violin and the tuning fork.[22]

The Reverend Williston Jones was one of the first singing teachers. He taught at some of the first singing schools and trained a large choir for the First Presbyterian Church.[23] In 1857 Mr. W. A. Dodge organized a vocal class[24] which met on Saturday evenings at the Presbyterian Church. In the spring this organization, known as the Cedar Rapids Glee Club, gave a concert. Admission was twenty-five cents and the proceeds were given to the cemetary fund. "The entire performance was creditable alike to the Glee Club and to our city."[25]

There was a Cedar Rapids Brass Band functioning in 1857 which gave a concert on September 24th. Admission

to this was also twenty-five cents, but a gentleman and lady could attend for thirty cents.[26] Spencer's Quadrille Band gave a grand "Gift Concert" during the Christmas holidays in 1859. They gave away about one hundred dollars worth of jewelry and other articles. This pioneer form of Bank Night was expected to draw a full house. In addition, the music was highly praised by the editor.[27]

There was a musical entertainment at which some local singers assisted in 1860.[28] The Baker Family, professional artists of the day, gave two concerts in 1856.[29]

After Miss Calder started her school it was possible to get piano instruction in Cedar Rapids. In 1859 Miss Dorchester advertised for pupils,[30] and in 1860 Mrs. Carrie B. Cutler set up as a music teacher. She paid the toll of Kingston pupils who crossed the bridge to take lessons.[31] The Elys had the first piano.

> If I recall rightly, the first piano in town came to the Ely house, a Woodward & Brown piano, made in Boston, and a very good piano it was for many years. They could not get it into the parlor through the front hall, so it was brought in through a window.32

Besides interest in music the people of Cedar Rapids demonstrated their interest in other intellectual pursuits. These may seem crude in the light of the present, but they showed an awareness of current political and social problems of the day, and laid the foundations for

the keen interest in intellectual and civic betterment that appears in Cedar Rapids today.

The earliest cultural efforts took the form of debating societies. These were held in the schoolhouse and only men took part in them. Among the prominent speakers were Levi Lewis and Barnett Lutz, who have already been mentioned for their part in establishing churches in Cedar Rapids. Some of the subjects for debate were: "'Resolved, that the pen is mightier than the sword,'" "'Resolved, that the signs of the times indicate the destruction of the Union,'" "'Resolved, that slavery should be abolished,'" and "'Resolved, that there is greater happiness in the pursuit of an object than in its possession.'"[33]

After the isolation of the little community had been broken by the steamboats and the railroad, there were occasional lectures given by traveling lecturers. In 1859 Dr. Kimball gave a course of lectures on Physiology and Hygiene, at ten cents a lecture. He illustrated these with skeletons, manikins and large models of the ear and eye.[34]

In 1860 Major Constable lectured on India.[35] The coming conflict was reflected in two lectures by a Chicago Negro, H. Ford Douglas, on the subject of Slavery.[36] The Reverend J. D. Schneffer spoke on Public Education at Concert Hall in 1857.[37]

Several attempts seem to have been made to organize lecture courses for the winter months. Mr. Ely said, "In those days there were literary clubs and lecture associations which secured many prominent lecturers...I recall Wendell Phillips, Horace Greeley, Elihu Burritt and John B. Gough...." [38] The Young Men's Library Association planned a course of lectures for the winter of 1857-1858, but it was evidently never carried out. [39] The Cedar Rapids Masonic Library Association instituted a lecture course in 1856. The list of speakers included Judge Greene, several doctors, Professor F. Humphrey, head of the Cedar Rapids Public School, and several ministers from Cedar Rapids and neighboring towns. There were two speakers from Iowa City, Dr. Totten, Chancellor of the State University, and Professor D. F. Wells. The highlight of the course was the lecture by the Honorable Horace Greeley of New York. Admission was one dollar for the entire course or ten cents for each lecture with the exception of Mr. Greeley's lecture and one other. Ladies were admitted free except on these two dates. [40]

Another evidence of early culture in Cedar Rapids was an active and continuing interest in libraries. Besides the early Sunday School libraries a beginning was made in 1843.

> As early as November 16, 1848, before Cedar Rapids had even been incorporated as a town, forty-one men of the community organized what they styled the "Cedar Rapids Lyceum" to "increase the knowledge, advance the morals, and inform the minds of those who interest themselves therein." The twentieth article of the constitution provides that there should be a library connected with the society.
>
> Donations were received, notably from Judge George Greene, James A. Dyer, and W. H. Merritt, and some money was raised through the sale of stock at one dollar a share. By March 22, 1849, Lawson Daniels who had been elected librarian reported a total of $20 had been subscribed and that thirty-four books had been donated.
>
> The matter of establishing a library progressed slowly until March 6, 1851, when the "Lyceum" members decided to draft articles of association and a constitution for the Cedar Rapids Library Lyceum Association! On April 3, 1851, the Lyceum passed out of existence but the library association seems to have gone on.41

Attempts were made in 1857 to organize a "Young Men's Library Association."[42] It is possible that this organization took the place of the Library Lyceum Association and inherited its books.

By the summer of 1859, however, there was a Cedar Rapids Library Association that was active.

> The Cedar Rapids Library Association is in a very flourishing condition. It has now about forty newspapers and magazines besides several volumes of very valuable books. It is the pleasantest place in the city to spend the evening.43

The first annual meeting of this association was held that fall at the library room in Ely's Block. Members who had not paid their dues were urged to do so, and members who had

borrowed magazines were asked to return them. The financial condition of the association was reported as good, officers for the coming year were elected and it was resolved to have a course of lectures during the winter.[44] Although these libraries were open to members only, they were steps in the right direction toward furnishing free books to all.

The people of Cedar Rapids showed an early and continuing interest in those things which made for better living, music, good books, and information about life and events in the world about them. They secured the best education for their children possible in the time and place. Their efforts laid the foundation for the many cultural organizations of the present day.

NOTES

1. George R. Carroll, Pioneer Life In and Around Cedar Rapids, Iowa, from 1838-1853, Cedar Rapids, 1905, 59.

2. Ibid., 56-57.

3. Ibid.

4. Ibid., 195-96.

5. Ibid.

6. Iowa Journal of History and Politics, 1938, V II, 472.

7. Charles A. Laurance, Pioneer Days in Cedar Rapids, Cedar Rapids, 1936, 70.

8. Cedar Valley Times, September 24, 1857.

9. Ibid., July 12, 1860, reprinted from the Boone County Bell.

10. Ibid., November 24, 1859.

11. Ibid., January 19, 1860.

12. Ibid., July 5, 1860.

13. Ibid., May 17, 1860.

14. Ibid., August 23, 1860.

15. Laurance, op. cit., 93.

16. Cedar Rapids Democrat, October 28, 1856.

17. Ibid., May 12, 26, 1857.

18. Carroll, op. cit., 191-92; Erle McKinley Ericson, Cedar Rapids Collegiate Institute and Its Founders, 1853-1866, Cedar Rapids, 1928, 13-14.

19. Cedar Valley Times, July 28, 1859.

20. Ibid., December 2, 23, 1859.

21. Cedar Rapids Democrat, February 17, 1857.

22. Carroll, op. cit., 197-201.

23. Ibid.

24. Cedar Valley Times, January 14, 1857.

25. Ibid., March 4, 11, 1858.

26. Ibid., September 24, 1857.

27. Ibid., December 22, 1859; January 5, 1860.

28. Ibid., February 2, 1860.

29. Cedar Rapids Democrat, December 9, 1856.

30. Cedar Valley Times, August 19, 1859.

31. Ibid., August 9, 1860.

32. Elisha D. Ely, The Ely and Moore Families, Cedar Rapids, 1926, 44.

33. Carroll, op. cit., 61-62.

34. Cedar Valley Times, June 30, 1859.

35. Ibid., July 26, 1860.

36. Ibid., December 8, 1859.

37. Ibid., December 10, 1857.

38. Ely, op. cit., 39.

39. Cedar Valley Times, November 17, December 10, 1857.

40. Ibid., January 19, 1860.

41. Erik McKinley Eriksson, "History of the Young Men's Association of Cedar Rapids," Cedar Rapids Gazette, July 14, 1929.

42. Cedar Valley Times, November 17, 1857.

43. Ibid., June 9, 1859.

44. Ibid., October 6, 13, 1859.

Chapter V

CO-OPERATION FOR A BETTER CEDAR RAPIDS

Co-operation has always been the reason for much of the progress of Cedar Rapids. The pioneer business men had the vision to see that only by working together could they build the type of town they wished to leave to their children. This was true in the earliest days when the settlers helped each other build the first log cabins on the unbroken prairie. It was equally true when they shared their provisions at a time when food could only be obtained by a trip with oxen and wagon to the towns along the Mississippi. Again the settlers co-operated in giving their labor and scanty funds to establish churches and to build schools for the betterment of the community. After the earliest period, the spirit of co-operation may be best illustrated by examples from the fields of transportation, bridges and communication.

The first problem that confronted the pioneers was that of crossing the river. While Cedar Rapids was a natural site for a settlement because of its water power, some means had to be provided to cross the river, both for trade from the west side and for access to older communities to the south and east, Bloomington (Muscatine)

in particular, and later, Iowa City. The first comers probably swam the river on horseback, as did the Reverend John Hodges in 1840,[1] or used crude homemade boats. By 1849 a rope ferry was operating.[2] In 1852 David W. King was running a toll ferry at established rates.[3]

By 1856 there was talk among the business men and community leaders about building a free bridge.

> There was a meeting of those favorable to the completion of the Free Bridge, in Carpenter's Hall, Saturday evening,--a call of story feeling was exhibited, and some nineteen hundred dollars subscribed....
>
> There is no doubt that this bridge will be built and soon. Those have it in hand who will carry it through, and it will pay.[4]

Work on the bridge was started that fall. The last of November the workmen were putting up the superstructure.[5] By the end of the year the work was well along.

> The fourth arch in the new bridge is nearly completed. The work is going ahead briskly. Those who dare risk themselves to cross by walking on the timbers before the plank are laid will be able to cross on the bridge in the course of two weeks. There ought to be a "jollification" when that structure is completed.6

The bridge was completed February 20, 1856.

> Hurrah for the Free Bridge!--Mr. Petroua, the enterprising contractor on the work, informed us on Friday noon last, that several teams had just passed over the free bridge. This announcement was made rather sooner than we expected....7

The bridge was built by subscription, but the contractor had not received his money in full by the time

it was completed. He had advanced considerable of his own funds to finish the structure by the time the river broke up and teams could not safely cross on the ice.[8] When it had operated free for several weeks and he still had not collected all subscriptions, Mr. Watrous was given the right to collect toll until his contract was paid in full, at which time the bridge was to be delivered to the Bridge Commissioners to be free henceforth. Rates were set for an unlimited number of crossings during the day by any one person. They were twenty cents for a two horse team, fifteen cents for a horse and buggy and ten cents for a horse. There was no charge for crossing on foot. Those who had paid five dollars or more of their subscriptions could cross free.[9]

The new bridge was in operation for only a short time. Three days after the toll rates were published, the ice broke up in the river upstream and the water, carrying ice and timber, swept down against the bridge supports. While a crowd gathered to watch, the bridge began to weaken. Two young Kingston girls, who had been in Cedar Rapids shopping, attempted to run across the shaky structure to get home. As they reached the middle it broke, they fell into the water and were drowned.[10]

Loss of the bridge was a blow to the community.

It had been in use only about five weeks. The town lost nearly ten thousand dollars and Mr. Watrous, the contractor, lost two thousand dollars. Plans were immediately made for a new bridge, while the ferry boat was put back into operation as before.[11]

In April the Bridge Commissioners presented their plan for a new bridge to be erected in ninety days and to operate at low toll. They planned to use what old material could be salvaged from the wreckage of the first bridge. This was valued at twenty-five hundred dollars. Five individuals had pledged a total of three thousand dollars and two individuals had pledged a total of two thousand dollars. This left twenty-five hundred dollars to be raised by subscription to complete a ten thousand dollar bridge.[12]

Probably this additional amount could not be secured, for the plans were changed and by the next year Cedar Rapids was using a floating bridge. When the river flooded in February, 1859, this was partly destroyed. A meeting was held and plans were made for building two free bridges.[13]

In March of that same year the State Legislature passed a bill authorizing two bridges on which toll should be collected until they were paid for, or not longer than twelve years, at the end of which time they were to be free.[14]

The first of these two bridges was built sometime during the next two years. The second was nearing completion in February, 1860.

> The upper bridge, now being built across the Cedar, will be completed in about three weeks, when we shall have two bridges across the river at this city.15

By the middle of March it was open to the public.

> The bridge across the Cedar River, at the foot of Iowa /First/ Avenue, was completed last Thursday. It is a beautiful structure, and reflects credit upon W. D. Watrous, the contractor. It consists of ten spans, averaging 70 feet. It is of the Howe arch truss pattern, and for strength, is acknowledged by all competent judges, to be equal to all the weight that can possibly get on at any one time. H. Church is the keeper of this bridge and Mowry Farnum of the lower one. The tolls are the same on each bridge.16

With the exception of the first few weeks of the first bridge, Cedar Rapids did not have free bridges prior to the outbreak of the Civil War.

Another project brought about by the co-operative effort of Cedar Rapids business men was bringing a telegraph line into the city. In 1858 the telegraph ran only to Fulton City, Illinois, opposite Clinton, and there was no line within the state. The great value of a telegraph to a farming and growing manufacturing community, for market reports and news in general, was obvious. The project was first mentioned in March, 1858.[17] In June it was explained in more detail. Citizens were urged to buy stock in a

company to extend a telegraph line into Iowa from the east bank of the Mississippi. It was to be named the Clinton, Cedar Rapids and Missouri Printing Telegraph Company. It was proposed to run the line from Clinton to Cedar Rapids, later to Des Moines and the Missouri River, and a branch line up the Cedar Valley.[18] It was finished the next year and the instrument installed in the express office. The stockholders were advised that it would be put in operation as soon as they paid the first and second installments on their stock, amounting to sixteen dollars per share. The name had been changed to the Clinton, Cedar Rapids and Missouri River Telegraph Company.[19]

It evidently took from the middle of August, 1859, to February 24, 1860, to collect these subscriptions, for at that time the telegraph was first open for business.

> The Telegraph is at last completed and was opened last Friday afternoon. Messages are now sent through from this city to Chicago and other Eastern cities without delay. The Morse instrument is the kind in use, and it works like a charm.[20]

Thus, Cedar Rapids was one of the few cities of Iowa to have a telegraph line before the Civil War.

The problem of transportation was one which engaged the attention of the people of Cedar Rapids almost as soon as the earliest settlement was made. Any extra grain or livestock above what was needed for the winter

had to be marketed if the settlers were to have money to buy absolute necessities, such as salt and ammunition. The nearest railroad was at Jackson, Michigan.[21] When Alexander Ely built his flouring mill in 1844, the machinery had to be shipped by water from the East, down the Ohio, and up the Mississippi to Muscatine, and then hauled overland by teams to Cedar Rapids.[22] The route overland to the river, either to Muscatine or Dubuque, was a track across hill and valley, through marshes and across streams which were out of their banks in spring and fall. These difficulties led the people of Cedar Rapids to attempt use of the river for shipping.

Robert Ellis organized the first venture of this kind. Flatboats were built and four thousand bushels of wheat were shipped down the river to New Orleans in 1841.[23]

The first steamboat was the "Maid of Iowa" which came up the river in 1844.

> An event which excited a good deal of interest in an early day was the coming of a steamboat to our town. It was a stern wheel boat of moderate dimensions, and was called the "Maid of Iowa." The time was probably in June 1844. The puffing of its engine and the scream of its whistle were the grandest music we had ever heard in these parts. There was something so fascinating about this boat that people flocked to the river for miles around to see it. And not satisfied with that they prevailed on the captain to give them an excursion down the river a few miles, in which a goodly number participated, sharing also in a splendid dinner, such as only steamboat men know how to prepare.

> There were not dams then to obstruct navigation and the river was at a fine stage, and there was clear sailing.[24]

There was no other steamboat transportation of importance on the river at Cedar Rapids until 1858.

Meanwhile, Iowa City had secured a railroad in 1855,[25] and this had reduced the distance merchandise had to be hauled; but hauling charges kept freight rates high on articles delivered in Cedar Rapids.

In the summer of 1859 two projects were planned to solve the transportation problem. The first was the building of a boat to run between Cedar Rapids and Waterloo.[26] By May the work was being pushed ahead. A committee was appointed to buy engines for the boat.[27] F. Smith and Company were the builders.

> The boat will be 100 feet long, 19 feet beam and 2½ feet hole; the engine is to be 60 horse power, 3 feet stroke and 9 inch cylinders, the boiler is to be 12 feet long, containing 24 flues; the wheel is to be 12 feet in diameter. It is expected that she will make the trip from Cedar Rapids to Waterloo inside of twelve hours including stops. We understand that the boat will not draw over six inches of water, light, and not more than ten with twenty tons of freight on board. It is expected to be completed by the 15th of July.[28]

The next week, correction was made that the boiler should have been described as fifteen feet long with forty-nine flues instead of twenty-four.[29]

Construction dragged on through the summer until the

steamer was finally launched, September 9, 1858.

> On Saturday last, about 5 o'clock, a large crowd of men women and children assembled at the upper shipyard, to witness the (to this town) novel performance of launching a steamer. At half past five o'clock, all being in readiness, the steamer lying broadside to the water, the blocks were knocked out, and away went the Valley Queen, "like a thing of life," some forty feet into the watery path that she is hereafter to travel. Hearty cheers congratulated her successful leap into the water, and the crowd dispersed, well satisfied with the new steamer, and the enterprise of Cedar Rapids.
>
> The dimensions of this boat have been before given. She is 110 feet long, 3 feet hold, and will carry about 125 tons. Success to her, and her energetic proprietors.30

Sometime between the date of her launching and the spring of 1859, the name of the steamer had been changed from Valley Queen to Black Hawk. She made trips back and forth to Waterloo all that summer until late July, when appeared the following item:

> Stove In.--The steamer Black Hawk had a hole stove in the bottom of her hull on her last trip to Waterloo, which will render it necessary to have her hauled out for repair. She will be all right again in a few days.31

The steamer was put up for the winter in November, 1859.

> The steamer Black Hawk has backed into the bayou on the west side of the dam, preparatory, we suppose, for the "freezing up," which in the natural course of events, must come before long. The river has been exceedingly low all the fall, and still continues so.32

She was running again by early March of 1860 and "left last

Monday morning for Waterloo and intermedi te points with a good load of merchandise."[33]

That May she was taken through the dams and was being refitted preparatory to going down the Cedar.[34] The next year the Black Hawk was purchased by S. Weaver who planned to run her between Cedar Rapids and St. Louis as long as there was plenty of water in the Cedar.[35] The Black Hawk was later sold to the government for use during the Civil War.[36]

The second project to improve local transportation was a steamer to run between Cedar Rapids and St. Louis. Local citizens organized a stock company to purchase the boat.[37] Mayor Rock and H. G. Angle left for the East, March 25, 1858, to complete the arrangements.[38] By July 8, she was on her way to Cedar Rapids.

> We are happy to inform our readers that the steamboat Cedar Rapids left Pittsburgh a week ago yesterday, with one hundred tons of freight on board, and if no accident occurs we think she will arrive on Saturday or Sunday evening. By a private letter, written on the 28th ult., we are informed that she is one of the best built and staunchest drafts that ever left the Iron City...let us all prepare to give her a welcome cheer as she comes around the bend. We have purchased a box of spermaceti candles, and shall illuminate the Times office on the evening of her arrival, if it is not on Sunday.[39]

The Cedar Rapids arrived July 21, 1858.

> Word was received yesterday afternoon, that the new steamboat Cedar Rapids, was below a few

> miles and would reach here in the evening. The boat left Pittsburgh about three weeks ago, and was at first expected here a week or ten days since. But in addition to the delays always incident to the first trip on an unknown river, she has had to encounter a flooded current under a heavy load.
>
> Expectation was on tiptoe last evening, and many were humbugged by the cry of "a boat!" "a boat!" long before the boat was in sight.--About ten o'clock however, the Cedar Rapids made her appearance, and as she passed the lower bridge ruins, she was greeted with hearty and prolonged cheers from the large crowd there assembled. As she passed up to her dock at the foot of Market street, rockets and Roman candles were sent up from her deck, and the crowd upon shore saluted her with renewed cheers and the firing of "anvils."...
>
> No sooner was she made fast to shore, and her gang planks run out, than a steady tide of men and boys rushed on board.[40]

She was described as being one hundred and fifty-five feet long and twenty-six feet wide, with one deck and a hold of three feet. She had a stern wheel fourteen feet in diameter with buckets fifteen inches wide.[41] "As she had to pass under the Moscow bridge there was only one height of cabin and there were hinges in the smokestacks."[42]

The Cedar Rapids left the next Monday morning on her first trip down the river to St. Louis, with a load of freight and twenty passengers. She was towing a barge which had been built in Cedar Rapids and which was also loaded. She had on board the following items of freight:

Barrels of Flour	939
Sacks of Wheat	1736

Sacks of Oats	1138
Sacks of Corn	157
Sacks of Flour	403
Barrels of Beans	7
Barrels of Lard	3
Barrels of Bacon	1
Box of Beeswax	1
Dry Flint Hides	9
Boxes of Furniture	7
Box Piano	1
Sacks of Ship Stuff	221 43

At Rochester, Cedar County, she was to take on 200 more barrels of flour, which makes the total amount of freight taken down on this trip, count up to about three hundred and twenty-five tons.[44]

A passenger on this first trip down the river wrote the following letter describing the trip as far as Rochester:

Steamer Cedar Rapids
Down the river July 26, '58

Mr. Times:--We left Cedar Rapids on the morning of the 26th, at 11 o'clock, with a fine load of freight, and about twenty passengers. Stopped and wooded at the Bluff, a mile below Cedar Rapids. Broke one wheel-arm, and replaced it with a new one in about ten minutes, under the direction of Jas. Fultoff, the chief engineer. Got under way twenty minutes to three and arrived at Rochester at twenty minutes to eight; making a run of fifty-six miles in just five hours. The scenery along the river is of the most picturesque character, and all pronounce it equal to any along eastern rivers.[44]

The Cedar Rapids made two more round trips that year. She was in Cedar Rapids the middle of August and the first week of September, and carried large loads of freight.[45] The Cedar Rapids did not appear in the news during 1859. Whether river conditions were unfavorable for

a trip up the Cedar, or the coming of the railroad in June of that year made river freighting unprofitable, she probably navigated on the Mississippi. Sometime during 1859, or possibly early spring, 1860, she collided with a large steamer on the Mississippi and sank her. As a result of this, the company lost possession of her and were threatened with litigation.[46] Judge Greene and H. O. Angle were in Dubuque, May 17, 1860, looking after the suit between the steamer Lucie May and the Cedar Rapids.[47] She was last heard of in 1864, when she was in the service of the government, and had just returned from Banks's "Red River Expedition," with part of the Sixteenth Corps.[48]

The railroad provided the only adequate solution to the transportation problem. The decade from 1850 to 1860 was a period of great excitement over railroad building in Iowa. The people of Cedar Rapids saw this as their great opportunity to get a railroad. The Chicago, Iowa and Nebraska Railroad was organized. Cedar Rapids' share was two hundred thousand dollars to get the line constructed as far west as that point. One hundred thousand dollars was paid by city bonds, and one hundred thousand dollars was invested by individuals.[49]

Action was started in 1856.

The Common Council after a exciting sitting,

> passed an ordinance granting the right of way to the Chicago, Iowa & Nebraska Railroad Co., by a majority of four to two. So we go. The Iron Horse will soon be among us.[50]

Within two weeks the contractors were calling for five hundred laborers.[51] The directors called for installments due on the stock, under date of December 2, 1856, so that the work of grading might continue.[52] By the next May, the railroad had been completed to Amos Creek, seventeen miles west of the Mississippi River.[53]

The road slowly pushed ahead during the next year, that of the Panic of 1857, while Cedar Rapids suffered from the hard times. In September, 1858, the grading was completed.

> The grading on the railroad through Jefferson street is progressing, and will be completed to the upper end of town the last of this week, or the first of next. We expect to see the usual signs put up at the street crossings, in a few weeks. "Look out for the engine while the bell rings."[54]

The next week Judge Greene left for the East to buy the railroad iron for the track from Lisbon to Cedar Rapids.[55]

By the spring of 1859 the railroad was nearly completed. Plans were made for the great Railroad Celebration--the greatest day in Cedar Rapids' history up to that moment. A committee was appointed of twenty-eight men from the town and county. They were to select the officials of the day, make preparations, and solicit food

for the great banquet. By June ninth plans were ready and the program had been arranged. Judge Greene was president of the day, there were several vice-presidents, and marshals to direct the parade. The food was donated, with the dinner free to contributors and invited guests; others paid fifty cents.[56]

The morning of June fifteenth dawned bright and clear. A salute of thirteen guns and the firing of anvils greeted the sunrise. By seven o'clock wagons from all over the county had started for town; by nine the roads were lined. At seven-thirty the excursion train left for Mt. Vernon and Lisbon and brought back seven open cars filled with people. There was a national salute of thirty-three guns at noon.[57]

Soon afterward the parade began to form. There were forty or fifty carriages and other vehicles in the parade which started at the Greene store on First Street. The parade moved slowly down to the depot at about the present Twelfth Avenue and Fourth Street.[58] It was led by the Great Western Band from Chicago. At one o'clock the train containing the important guests from Chicago and Clinton pulled in. It was composed of five well-filled passenger cars, pulled by locomotive number three which was bedecked with flags.[59] There were musical selections and speeches by the Mayor and the President of the Day.[60]

The procession then reformed and moved to the oak grove where the Masonic Library now stands. There, tables more than six hundred feet in length had been spread. Nearly four thousand people were fed.[61] A whole ox had been barbecued "on a great grit placed over a pit of hot coals. There were chickens, too."[62]

After the dinner, came the toasts and responses, thirteen in all, toasts to the Railroad Company, to Clinton and Cedar Rapids (foreshadowing Webster), "'one and inseparable, now and forever,'" to the railroads, "'the great leveler of all distinction between inland and seaboard.'" The toast to the State of Iowa was responded to by the Honorable S. J. Kirkwood of Iowa City, who later became governor. At this point, one end of the platform, with several eastern gentlemen upon it, fell down. "'Though New England is down, Iowa is up,'" remarked Mr. Kirkwood, much to the amusement of the crowd.[63] The speeches lasted nearly four hours "without any flagging of the interest manifested."[64] This must surely have set a new high for even pioneer speech making.

The next event of importance was the salute of seven guns at eight o'clock, which was the signal for the illumination and fireworks which followed.[65]

The Grand Railroad Festival was the event of the

evening. It was held at Daniel's Hall at the corner of First Avenue and First Street. The Western Band played and the people danced "until the small hours of the morning made their appearance."[66] Young ladies who had attended the ball "tripped home on foot in their tarleton gowns and white kid slippers, for public carriages were scarce and the new and only bus had gone to meet the early train."[67]

So ended the great day. Cedar Rapids at last had dependable transportation. She could market her grain, livestock and manufactured articles; she could ship in the products she needed. In the flowery words of the toast to the pioneers, "'Their hope is to-day ended in fruition.'"[68]

Cedar Rapids, today, owes much to her gallant pioneers, the Elys, the Greenes, the Weares, the Rocks, the Daniels and many others. They worked together to build schools, churches, libraries, bridges and transportation facilities. To their vision, their courage and their perseverance Cedar Rapids stands today--a living memorial.

NOTES

1. See above, page 17.

2. "Practicing Medicine in Cedar Rapids in 1849," Cedar Rapids Republican, November 10, 1912.

3. Fred J. Lazell, "Indians Roamed Site of Cedar Rapids One Hundred Years Ago," Cedar Rapids Republican, April 5, 1925.

4. Cedar Rapids Democrat July 8, 1856.

5. Ibid., November 25, 1856.

6. Ibid., December 30, 1856.

7. Ibid., February 24, 1857.

8. Ibid.

9. Ibid., March 24, 1857.

10. Ibid., March 31, 1857.

11. Ibid. Mr. Watrous had a great deal of trouble and loss on this project. First, he dropped his wallet, containing the notes of the subscribers to the bridge fund, into the river, and only recovered it by plunging into the icy stream. Secondly, there was nothing to indicate that he ever collected the notes outstanding at the time the bridge was destroyed. Collapse of the bridge was caused by the fact that there had not been enough funds to provide wooden guards to prevent ice and timbers from striking the bridge supports directly.

12. Ibid., April 21, 1857.

13. Cedar Valley Times, February 3, 1858.

14. Ibid., March 11, 1858.

15. Ibid., February 23, 1860.

16. Ibid., March 15, 1860.

17. Ibid., March 11, 1858.

18. Ibid., June 3, 1858.

19. Ibid., August 18, 1859.

20. Ibid., March 1, 1860.

21. George R. Carroll, Pioneer Life In and Around Cedar Rapids, Iowa, from 1839-1842, Cedar Rapids, 1895, 153-59.

22. Elisha D. Ely, The Ely and Young Families, Cedar Rapids, 1926, 34. Cf. Carroll, op. cit., 153-59, who said it came from New York, by way of New Orleans.

23. Portrait and Biographical Album of Linn County, Iowa, Chicago, 1887, 935.

24. Carroll, op. cit., 215.

25. Cyrenus Cole, Iowa Through The Years, Iowa City, 1940, 345.

26. Cedar Valley Times, March 19, 26, 1859.

27. Ibid., May 27, 1859.

28. Ibid., June 3, 1859.

29. Ibid., June 10, 1859.

30. Ibid., September 16, 1859. The changes in length and in the hold had probably been made during construction.

31. Ibid., July 23, 1859.

32. Ibid., November 24, 1859.

33. Ibid., March 15, 1860.

34. Ibid., May 24, 1860.

35. Ibid., March 7, 1861.

36. Portrait and Biographical Album..., 935.

37. Ely, op. cit., 82.

38. Cedar Valley Times, March 19, 1858.

39. Ibid., July 8, 1858.

40. Ibid., July 22, 1858. Cf. the description of the same event in "Graphic Story of Early Iowa and Pioneer Days Is Revealed by Mrs. W. W. Walker," Cedar Rapids Gazette and Republican, August 19, 1928. Mrs. Walker described anvil firing as requring two anvils. "'Powder was put in the depression in one--a long string soaked in oil or alcohol was set in it as a fuse, and then the second anvil was placed on top. Then the fuse was lighted--dangerous but it surely made a big noise.'"

41. Ibid.

42. Ely, op. cit., 82.

43. Cedar Valley Times, July 29, 1858.

44. Ibid. Prices in Rochester were: butter, eight cents per pound, eggs, four cents per dozen, milk, three cents per quart, and wood, one dollar and seventy-five cents per cord.

45. Ibid., August 19; September 9, 1858.

46. Ely, op. cit., 82.

47. Cedar Valley Times, May 17, 1860.

48. Ely, op. cit., 82

49. Cedar Valley Times, June 23, 1859.

50. Cedar Rapids Democrat, November 25, 1856.

51. Ibid., December 9, 1856.

52. Ibid., March 10, 1857.

53. Ibid., May 5, 1857.

54. Cedar Valley Times, September 2, 1858.

55. Ibid., September 9, 1858.

56. Ibid., June 9, 1859.

57. Ibid., June 23, 1859.

58. Walker, loc. cit.

59. Cedar Valley Times, June 23, 1859.
60. Ibid., June 9, 1859.
61. Ibid., June 23, 1859.
62. Walker, loc. cit.
63. Cedar Valley Times, June 23, 1859.
64. Ibid.
65. Ibid.
66. Ibid.
67. Walker, loc. cit.
68. Cedar Valley Times, June 23, 1859.
69. Ibid.

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